

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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BULLETIN

Edited by Rosamond Hanworth, Folly Hill, Ewhurst, Surrey

Bulletin Changes

Owing to the rising costs of the Bulletin, mainly due to increases on postage, it is, regretfully, necessary to make economies. At a Council Meeting on 8th October it was agreed that the best way to achieve them would be to reduce the number of issues by four. The remaining eight would have to be increased slightly in size to carry about the same news as before, and every effort will be made to ensure that late news is not left out.

The following scheme will be put into operation in 1972, but it must be emphasised that it is not intended to be rigid, and the service to members will suffer as little as is possible. There will be a small note at the bottom of each Bulletin reminding members when the next issue is due, and the date on which copy should be received by the Editor.

January— No issue.

February—Issue with emphasis on Recent Publications, Membership, etc.

March— No issue.

April— Issue to include notice of A.G.M.

May— Issue with excavation notices.

June— Issue with excavation notices.

July— Issue with excavation notices.

August— Issue to include notices of forthcoming University, Local Authority, or Local Society Courses of Instruction.

September—No issue.

October— Issue with Local Societies' Winter programmes, to be published once only.

November—No issue.

December—Issue with reports on Society matters, excavation results, etc.

NOTES

NEW MEMBERS

From 1st August, 1971

N. G. Piper, Esq., A.R.I.C.A., 4 York Gardens, Walton on Thames.

E. R. Pike, Esq., 14 Hinchley Drive, Hinchley Wood, Esher.

N. H. Gates, Esq., 95 Tattenham Way, Tadworth.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Manson, 39 Larchwood Close, Banstead.

Miss K. J. Manson, 39 Larchwood Close, Banstead.

Miss R. J. Brewer, The Flat, 2 Wykeham Road, Farnham.

M. R. Ward, Esq., 80 Hadrian Way, Stanwell, Mdx.

B. Theairs, Esq., 22 Primrose Hill Road, London, N.W.3.

Miss J. M. Fisher, Woodlands, Bashurst Copse, Itchingfield, Horsham, Sussex.

From 1st September, 1971

Miss M. J. Horsley, 54 Fairfax Avenue, Ewell, Epsom.

K. W. Muckelroy, Esq., Hilcot, 53 Hartley Down, Purley, CR2 4EF.

A. J. Rose, Esq., 11 Purley Knoll, Purley.

I. G. Galbraith, Esq., 61 Overdale, Ashtead.

W. J. Blair, Esq., 90 Links Road, Ashtead.

Surrey Churches

The series of articles on the County's Churches, which have appeared for some years in the Society's Collections, has lapsed following the Sub-editor, Mr. McDowell's departure to York. Mr. J. W. Lindus Forge, A.R.I.B.A., has now agreed to act as Sub-editor for the resumed series and will be glad to hear of any suitable material lying in manuscript which might form a basis for further articles.

Excavations at Gatton Bottom, Merstham (TQ 274536)

The S.A.S.'s rescue excavation of this site, due to be destroyed during the construction of the M25 motorway at Gatton Bottom, near Merstham, took place between 14th August and 28th August. The site was the find spot, near the turn of the century, of "Ancient British Coins", although records of the exact nature of the coins were destroyed during the last war.

A grid system of excavation was employed, though it was not possible to excavate the whole area of this large, leafy knoll, part of the Jubilee Plantations. The excavation was preceded by resistivity and fluxgate gradiometer surveys, both of which produced decidedly negative results. Finds included large quantities of roofing tile, glazed brick which was perhaps a product of the local lime kilns, and a scatter of pottery of miscellaneous dates; there were no archaeological features.

Pottery includes an early Roman sherd, medieval and later sherds; two whetstones were virtually undatable in the absence of associated finds. A metal ring, made of bronze and bearing a linear design appears to be almost identical with a ring of the pagan Saxon period, from the Guild-down cemetery. All finds will be deposited at the Guildford Museum, with a detailed report of the excavation. Finally, thanks are due to all those members who participated with such keen interest in the operations.

(Jill Harman).

Local History Symposium Bookstall and Exhibits (Dorking Halls, Saturday, 13th November, 1971, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Those local organisations or individuals wishing to sell publications or offer exhibits relating to work in local history at the above Symposium, should write to: The Organiser, 7a Burntwood Lane, Caterham, CR3 5UN, for particulars at once.

(James Batley).

Recent Publications

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames has issued a **Guide to the Borough Archives** (xiv + 136 pp., including six plates). The cost is £1 plus 12p for postage and packing. Copies may be purchased from the Town Clerk, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames. Copies will be on sale at the Local History Symposium on 13th November.

(M. Gollancz).

Correction

Pampisford Road, from which came the Neolithic axe reported in **Bulletin 81**, is in Croydon, not Carshalton, and the grid reference should read TQ 319635.

Dorking Relief Road

Numerous historic buildings in Dorking are threatened not so much by the proposed Relief Road, whatever its desirability, which it is proposed shall be driven through the town, but by the widening of by-roads and lanes into "feeder" roads to the new route. Many of the affected buildings are not of outstanding architectural or historic interest, and are therefore un-graded, but are nevertheless components in very attractive

townscape whose loss would rob Dorking of much of its surviving charm.

It is for this reason that the Society's Conservation Committee is assisting the Opposition to the scheme who, by courtesy of the local authorities, are being allowed space to state their case at an exhibition early in November. We are preparing a plan which will clearly show all the surviving old buildings in the town, whether graded or not and the sites of those already lost. This should also underline the urgency of defining a "Conservation Area" for Dorking.

(J. W. L. Forge).

Kingston: Picton House

Despite its rich historical associations the borough is notably deficient in listed buildings of architectural or historic interest, and in recent years their number has steadily diminished; several have been demolished, while others are suffering a slower death from passive neglect. In the latter category is Picton House, an attractive 18th century building facing the river in High Street, Kingston. The building was acquired by Kingston Corporation in 1964 and has been vacant since 1967. This part of the High Street lies both in the Kingston Comprehensive Development Area and in Conservation Area No. 1—Kingston Old Town. In 1969 the Corporation decided to demolish Picton House which was then on the Supplementary List. Following representations by Surrey and Kingston Archaeological Societies the building was listed Grade II and in October 1970 Kingston Corporation decided to apply for listed building consent to demolish the building. Societies and individuals made further representations and a petition of some 1,500 signatures was collected. In February this year the Secretary of State for the Environment announced that a public inquiry on the demolition application would be held and this took place on 25/26th August. The intervening months gave time to prepare a detailed case for preservation. At the inquiry evidence was given for Kingston Corporation, the Greater London Council and objecting societies and individuals. The main objecting societies were the S.A.S. and the Kingston A.S., who were represented by Mr. Norman Nail. The River Thames Society was also represented, and individual objectors included Mr. Martin Morris, who acts as conservation secretary to the Kingston Archaeological Society. The Secretary of State's decision on the application has not yet been announced and is of course awaited with much interest. The joint representation of the two societies by Mr. Nail was an excellent example of a way in which a county and local archaeological society can co-operate, and one that perhaps could be developed in the future.

(Marion P. (Canham) Smith).

John Evelyn Society of Wimbledon: Historical Section

The Section meets regularly on the first Friday of the month at 8.15 p.m. at 1 Leopold Avenue, S.W.19. A previous telephone call to Mr. Parsloe (946-0764) from an intending visitor would be appreciated as numbers are increasing and accommodation is limited.

Meetings are informal discussion of topics raised by members. Many points have arisen from the Wimbledon Commons Centenary; among others arising from individual interests are 17th century Wimbledon, St. Mary's Church and the Well at Well House.

The Section has started tape recording old residents' memories with a recording of Mr. John Gore, who was born in 1885 at West Side House. The Section hope to plan further developments such as a co-operative survey of materials for the history of Wimbledon and a programme of lectures, exhibitions and publications.

(J.E.S. Newsletter).

John Evelyn Society Museum

After very many years of devoted service, Mr. Warren has been forced by ill-health to resign his curatorship and has been succeeded by Mr. Myson (Hon. Local Secretary of the S.A.S.). The museum, at the Village Club, Ridgeway, S.W.19, is open on Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

(J.E.S. Newsletter).

Kingston: Excavation at three sites

Three small excavations have been undertaken by Kingston A.S. in the last year. The first, directed by Mrs. M. Canham, was at Old Malden in the grounds of the Vicarage, Church Road (TQ 21256612), close to where in the late 1940s Mr. L. W. Carpenter discovered traces of Iron Age, Roman and Medieval occupation (S.A.C. L, 1946-47, pp. xxii, 152-6, and S.A.C. LI, 1949, p. xi). In the present excavation four trenches were opened immediately to the north of the old tennis court behind the Vicarage. A number of features, taking the form of silted pits or hollows and gullies were recognised cutting into the clay subsoil. Their fillings contained a small quantity of fragmentary Iron Age and Roman pottery and animal bone. A few sherds of green-glazed medieval pottery were found in the upper levels of the trenches. Further south two trenches were opened at right angles to the line of Mr. Carpenter's conjectured boundary of the Iron Age enclosure. Here the tail of a slight clay bank sealed an occupation deposit containing Iron Age and Roman pottery.

The second excavation, directed by Mr. S. Nelson, took place on the site of a row of demolished late 19th century cottages in Vicarage Road, Kingston (TQ 17816945). The site lies in the area of a proposed new road from Kingston Bridge and close to Old Bridge Street, the approach to the former wooden bridge across the Thames. A trench was opened parallel with Thames Street and the southern part was found to be much disturbed by service trenches of the Victorian cottages. Further north, however, an earlier period of brick building was sealed beneath the concrete base of the cottages. Two areas of brick paving associated with this earlier period sealed an occupation deposit which at present appears to contain nothing later than the late 17th century. This deposit overlies the Flood Plain gravels of the Thames. A brick-built well was also found beneath the concrete base and this is still being investigated. All periods from late medieval onwards are represented by pottery sherds, but most of the material, including clay pipes, dates from the late 17th century onwards.

The third excavation, directed by Mrs. R. Kenward, took place in the garden to the rear of 1 Thames Street, Kingston (TQ 17796921), in conjunction with the recording of this building.

Further details of the Kingston A.S.'s work will appear shortly. Wall foundations relating to the building were traced and perhaps date to c. 1600. Finds include late and post-medieval pottery.

(Marion P. (Canham) Smith).

Morden: Stane Street (TQ 252679)

Drainage works have been carried out during the summer months on the G.L.C. playing field in the north-east sector of Morden Park. During the cutting of the channels observations were made on the course of Stane Street. The channels were cut to an overall depth of 18in. on slightly sloping ground, and in general they sectioned the top soil and did not penetrate the London clay. Nothing was found to indicate the presence of a road.

This area of the park was part of the "paddock" enclosed by John Ewart in 1770. During the war (1939/45) and after it was cultivated as allotments and about 1952 was levelled and made into a playing field by the then L.C.C. It is possible that the Roman road was destroyed during levelling or may lie at a deeper level relatively undisturbed.

Observations were made during the early stages of the construction of the new Merton Technical College (TQ 250675) in 1970 and in 1971. Apart from what appeared to be the foundations of early farm buildings (Morden Park or Church Farm) nothing could be added to what had previously been found in 1959 (Turner, D. J., (1960), Lond. Nat., 39, 130-132).

(W. J. Rudd).

East Clandon: A Possible Roman Dwelling Site (TQ 058524)

A coin found in a newly tilled field at East Clandon by a 13 year old schoolboy, Richard Kerr, has been identified as a sestertius dating from the time of Faustina (the wife of Marcus Aurelius, Emperor from 161 to 180 A.D.). This find has led to further discoveries.

In an area of about 100 square yards a large quantity of coarse pottery has been found. Types of pottery range from that used in the 2nd century to that of the 4th century. Pieces of three mortaria (one of Wiggonholt pottery) were found and also a number of flint balls which have been rubbed smooth.

Also found in the area were: fragments of roof tile, scraps of Samian ware, a few badly corroded metal objects, lumps of slag and furnace bottom, and a part of a quern stone.

The very great amount of pottery found seems to indicate more than casual occupation of the site, and the range of types and dates points to reasonable length of occupation.

The field where the finds were made is part of the Ryde Farm Estate, owned by Sir Charles Forte, and has recently been cultivated to a depth of 18 inches.

(Mrs. F. G. Kerr).

Processing of Finds from Excavations

The Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society's processing takes place at the Old Livesey Library, Old Kent Road, on Wednesday and Friday evenings, 6.30 p.m.-9 p.m. Work is being carried out on Roman, Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery. Volunteers for specialist work such as pottery drawing, bones and oyster shell examination are also required. Newcomers to the work are welcome and training in various techniques will be given. Further enquiries to Brian Bloice (Processing Secretary), 94 Hubert Grove, Stockwell, S.W.9, 733 6665 (evenings).

The Bourne Society published details of a Pottery Processing Course in Bulletin 81, Caterham Adult Education Centre, Beechwood Road, Caterham, Fridays 7.30-9.30 p.m.

Brooklands, Weybridge, Pottery from the Iron Age and Medieval site is being processed at Folly Hill, Ewhurst, Tel. Ewhurst 420, on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Volunteers welcome.

The Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society are working on the Staines material at various premises on Monday and Wednesday evenings 7-9 p.m., Wednesday mornings 9.30-12 noon, and Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Maureen Rendell at Chertsey 4779.

COURSES

Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Southampton.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE MEDWAY VALLEY—

Director of Studies: Dr. E. Course, B.Sc. (Econ.), M.C.I.T. A weekend residential course from Friday evening, 28th April, to Sunday, 30th April, 1972.

This course will be based on the Medway from Tonbridge down through Maidstone and the Medway Towns to the Isle of Grain. The party will stay in Rochester and visits will include riverside industries, rail and water transport and such Kentish industries as brewing.

Details from Mrs. I. F. Candy, B.Sc. (Econ.), Department of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH. Tel. 59122 ext. 833.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF DERBYSHIRE—Director of Studies: Dr. E. Course, B.Sc. (Econ.), M.C.I.T. A week's residential course from 29th August until 5th September, 1972.

Details from Mrs. I. F. Candy.

STUDY TOUR: ROMAN AFRICA—Organised by the University of Southampton, Department of Extra-Mural Studies in conjunction with Academy Travel Ltd. Leader: D. E. Johnston, M.A. Cost: £95 (inclusive of air travel, accommodation and visits). Dates: 3rd–17th April, 1972 (inclusive).

Note: The party will be limited to 15 and early application is advised. A brochure with full details will be available in due course.

Apply to The Tutor in Archaeology, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton, SO9 5NH.

MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

Friday 5th, 7.45 p.m.

The Pottery Kilns at Farnborough. Talk by Mr. F. Holling to Farnham Museum Society at the Institute of Further Education, Potters Gate, Farnham.

Saturday 6th, 3 p.m.

Excavation of the Early Medieval Manor House at Netherne. Talk by Miss L. Ketteringham to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington A.S. at Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors 5p. Tea 10p.

Tuesday 9th, 8 p.m.

Walton and Weybridge. Talk by Mrs. A. Lansdell to the Egham-by-Runnymede H.S. at Strode's School Library, High Street, Egham.

Thursday 11th, 7.45 p.m.

Edward III's Castle at Hadleigh, Essex. Talk by Mr. P. Drewett to Croydon N.H. & S.S. at George Street Congregational Church, Addiscombe Grove.

Thursday 11th, 8 p.m.

Historic Churches and their Future. Talk by Mr. Laurence E. Jones to Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

Friday 12th, 8 p.m.

Dorking and its History. Talk by Mr. J. E. N. Walker to the Holmesdale Natural History Club at The Museum, Croydon Road, Reigate.

Saturday 13th, 2.30 p.m.

A.G.M. Merton Historical Society, followed by Merton Abbey Station. Talk and exhibition by Mr. J. M. Honey at the Lecture Hall, Morden Library, Morden Road, Morden.

Saturday 13th, 11 a.m.

LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM, Dorking Halls, Dorking. Details were enclosed with Bulletin 82.

Thursday 18th, 7.30 p.m.

Fulham and Hammersmith. Talk by Mr. P. D. Whitting to Clapham Antiquarian Society at St. Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, S.W.12.

Thursday 18th, 8 p.m.

Local Pictures with Comments. Talk by Mrs. Kay Percy to Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

Saturday 20th, 3 p.m.

Brooklands, Weybridge. Talk by Rosamond Hanworth to Walton & Weybridge L.H.S. at the Lecture Hall, Weybridge Library.

Tuesday 23rd, 8 p.m.

Castles of South-East England. Talk by Mr. D. F. Renn to Nonsuch & Ewell A.S. at Committee Room C, Bourne Hall, Ewell.

Thursday 25th, 8 p.m.

Recent Excavations at Weybridge, Surrey. Talk by Rosamond Hanworth to Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

Friday 26th, 7.45 p.m.

Geology and Archaeology. Films on various subjects, including a salt mine, limestone working, flint knapping, and the preservation of the "Wasa" to Croydon N.H. & S.S. at Norbury Manor High School, Norbury.

Friday 26th, 8 p.m.

Visible Archaeological Remains in Britain. Talk by Mr. A. Shaw to Wandsworth H.S. at The Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday 27th, 11.15 a.m.

C.B.A. CONFERENCE. "Settlement and Environment in the South-East", at The Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells.

DECEMBER

Thursday 2nd, 8 p.m.

South Eastern Rivers and their Histories. Talk by Mr. Brian Price to Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

Saturday 4th, 3 p.m.

Some Greek and Turkish Classical Sites. Talk by Mr. J. R. Haynes to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington A.S. at Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors 5p. Tea 10p.

Monday 6th, 8 p.m.

A.G.M. of the Mayford History Society, and Exhibition, at the Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.

Thursday 9th, 7.30 p.m.

Ancient Egypt. Talk by Mr. A. G. Rigden to Clapham Antiquarian Society at St. Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, S.W.12.

EAST SURREY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION LECTURES
at Caterham Evening Centre, de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham.

Wednesday, 24th November, 7.30 p.m.

POPULATION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION. Dr. A. F. Taylor.

Thursday 9th December, 7.30 p.m.

SURVIVAL REQUIRES ACTION. Colin Hutchinson.

Monday 22nd November, 7.30 p.m.

at Reigate Adult Education Centre, County School, Castlefield Road, Reigate.

(University of Surrey Lecture)

RENAISSANCE SCIENCE AND HUMANIST VALUES. Clive Turner, B.Sc., M.I.Biol. Lecturer in Human Biology.

Next Issue

The next issue of the Bulletin will be in December, there will be none in January. Copy for the December issue is required by 5th November, and for February by 5th January.

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