

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH. GUILDFORD

Number 89

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BULLETIN

Edited by Rosamond Hanworth, Folly Hill, Ewhurst, Surrey

The Employment of a Full-time Officer

The Society has for some time, as noted in the Annual Report, been negotiating with the Surrey County Council over the provision of a County Archaeologist or of some other equivalent arrangement. The County Council has now offered a substantial grant in the current financial year as a contribution towards the employment of a full-time professional officer by the Society. The County Council will play a part in the appointment of the officer.

The duties of the officer will include the maintenance of the Society's Archaeological Index, offering advice to the County Council on the archaeological implications of planning applications and development proposals, and carrying out archaeological observation and rescue work. The post will be, of course, quite distinct from the arrangements the Society has already made concerning motorway archaeology.

The officer will probably be paid on a scale similar to Local Government Grade AP3 and the post will be advertised shortly (any members interested should contact the Hon. Secretary).

The Society will, at the same time, need paid secretarial help. It has not yet been decided whether such work should be based in Guildford and the Hon. Secretary would like to hear from members willing to work part-time for the Society either during normal office hours in Guildford or for two or three hours per week outside normal office hours elsewhere in the County (accurate short hand typing is necessary but high speeds are not essential).

EMERGENCY EXCAVATION NOTICE

THORPE, MUCKHATCH FARM (TQ 015688)

Director: Mr. J. Shenton

Evidence of early occupation provisionally dated to the Bronze Age has been found at a gravel pit following a survey by the Surrey Archaeological Society, supported by members of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society, along the route of the M25 motorway in the Egham area.

The site, which is adjacent to the proposed M25, is to be destroyed by gravel working in the next few weeks. Features discovered include part of a ring ditch, a number of post holes in a rectangular formation, many pits and several linear features not yet excavated.

Many fragments of pottery have been recovered from a hearth area and the ring ditch which has been thoroughly ploughed down over many years. A polished flint axe has been found in one of the pits.

Help is urgently needed for as long as it is possible to dig. Saturdays, 2.5 p.m., Sundays, 10.5 p.m. and weekday evenings 6.30 p.m. to dusk, whilst the opportunity lasts.

Please ring Walton-on-Thames 24396, after 9.30 p.m. (Other excavation notices appear elsewhere in this Bulletin.)

Purchase of L.B.A. Sword from Limpsfield

The Limpsfield Sword is now in this country, and was handed over to the custody of Guildford Museum on 9th June. Consequently it will not now be necessary to take the action announced by the Hon. Secretary at the Annual General Meeting. To date some £90 has been received as a result of the appeal for contributions made in Bulletin 85, which is almost half the total sum, £200. Contributions from the following are acknowledged with grateful thanks:

S.A.S. Library, Miss M. A. Cannon, Miss K. Close, F. J. Cobbett, J. A. Collett, A. H. Colliver, J. B. Cresswell, A. A. D'Encer, M. E. Farley, Miss M. Gollancz, Miss L. Graham, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, The Viscountess Hanworth, C. J. Harvie, Mr. Hayes, A. W. G. Lowther, I. D. Margary, I. Macquarrie, P. Meyer, Miss A. J. Monk, J. L. Nevinson, Mrs. K. M. Percy, Mrs. A. E. Purcell, Dr. and Mrs. Rees-Thomas, G. D. Sansom, S. W. Schlich, R. B. Standing, Mrs. L. Thornhill, Col. and Mrs. Wright.

EXCAVATION NOTICES

ANSTIEBURY IRON AGE HILL-FORT (TQ 153440)

Director: Mr. F. H. Thompson

A first season of excavation at this site will take place from Monday, 10th July to Saturday, 5th August. Details were given in Bulletin 86.

Enquiries to: F. H. Thompson, Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS.

FARNBOROUGH HILL, HANTS: MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY SITE (SU 876566)

Director: Mr. F. Holling

Further excavation on this site in the grounds of Farnborough Hill Convent School will take place from 22nd July to 6th August inclusive, from 10 a.m. daily. It is proposed to explore the area around the late fifteenth century kiln found last year.

Access by road: approaching from Frimley on A325, turn left along Ship Lane 100 yards beyond roundabout junction with A327. The site is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along on the right in the field adjoining the road. By rail: the site is within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Farnborough North station, and less than 1 mile from Farnborough and Frimley stations.

Enquiries to: Felix Holling, Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford. Telephone Guildford 66551.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, OLD BRIDGE STREET

Director: Mr. S. Nelson

Work is continuing on this site every weekend from 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Full details were given in Bulletin 87.

Enquiries to: Mrs. M. P. Smith, Kingston Museum, Fairfield Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, telephone 01-846 8105; or Mr. S. Nelson, 13 Manor Crescent, Surbiton, Surrey.

NOTES

New Members from 1st May, 1972

Bletchingley Preservation and Historical Society, 86 High Street, Bletchingley, Redhill, Surrey.

Mr. F. J. Brown, 14 Beverley Avenue, London, SW20 0RL.

Mr. R. O. Chalkley, Fishers Hill Cottage, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.

Mrs. A. S. Daborn, 27 Heathside, Hinchley Wood, Esher.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Meldrum, Goose Rye Road, Worplesdon, Guildford.

Mr. R. G. Davis, L.R.I.C., A.F.Inst.Pet., Amberley, Wellington Avenue,
Virginia Water.
Mrs. J. Keating, 65 Epsom Road, Guildford.
Mrs. H. Wootton, 30 Carlton Road, Redhill.
Mr. C. B. Brooking, Woodhay, White Lane, Guildford.
Mr. B. E. Withers, Windwards, Ridlands Lane, Limpsfield Chart, Oxted.
Mr. D. E. Bradford, B.Sc., A.R.I.C., 64 Culvers Avenue, Carshalton.
Mrs. S. Checkley, The Fir Field, Square Drive, Kingsley Green, Haslemere.
Mr. S. P. Needham, 140 Aldershot Road, Guildford.
Mr. B. P. Day, B.Sc., M.Inst.P., Chedworth, Dippenhall Street, Crondall,
Farnham.

Archaeology on the Surrey Motorways

The purpose of the Surrey Archaeological Society's work on the motorways is to ensure that any site which is threatened with destruction due to the building of the motorway is adequately investigated and recorded.

The M23 will run from Mitcham via Hooley and Merstham, past Gatwick Airport and Crawley to Pease Pottage. The M25 starts in Egham, runs past Leatherhead, Merstham and Godstone and reaches the Surrey-Kent county boundary near Westerham. The M3 runs from Camberley, past Bagshot and Chertsey to Sunbury.

Work is being done using a central full-time group based in London, in conjunction with the local societies.

As soon as the final route of the motorway is made public, field walking over the route takes place, led by local societies, with a representative of the central group. The next stages are documentary research and trial excavation of any sites found. If necessary full-scale excavation will then be carried out. Once construction of the motorway starts, continual observation over the whole route takes place. The top surface is removed, trees are uprooted, drainage sections are dug and fence posts are erected, all of which help in the observation. The excavation of any sites which come to light at this stage may have to be carried out quickly, and it may only be possible to sample sites. A documentary record is kept of all sites.

The majority of finds have been mounds or depressions, which have proved to be modern. Several sites were excavated well in advance of construction by local groups. Near the A23 at Pease Pottage, flint scatters were found and circular depressions were seen in the field. Several sherds of Roman pottery have been found at the interchange near Godstone. A small trial excavation has been carried out at Sunbury in features cut into gravel.

Trial excavations are planned on the Pease Pottage site, and at the Godstone interchange. On the parts of the route not yet under construction field walking with local groups is taking place. Continual observation is being maintained on the rest of the motorway.

A more detailed article on work on the Surrey motorways will appear in the London Archaeologist, July 1972.

(B. Johnson).

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

A list of societies and institutions interested in the history of Surrey
3rd edition, May 1972

This list was compiled for the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Surrey Local History Council and is intended to be useful to workers in local history and archaeology in the historic county of Surrey, as a guide to the societies and institutions which may be helpful in their studies and which would be interested in the results of such studies.

It is based on a card index maintained at the Surrey County Library's Caterham Central Library which contains details of subscriptions, main

A total of 85 stone sleepers were found in situ with five plates of two different types. The sleepers were laid directly on the ground (in this area chalk), and the space between was filled with chalky rubble followed by a flint scatter, for the horses to get a foothold. The scatter extended approximately 5ft. to one side of the line.

A very interesting discovery was the existence of a second, earlier, railway underneath the C. M. & G. Plates recovered from this line proved to be longer and of a lighter construction than the C. M. & G. Some of the early sleepers were of the local stone from the mines they served, though in other cases they had been replaced by sleepers of sandstone. The gradient generally was approximately 1 in 100 in the valley of Quarry Dene though one branch line to the Withy Pit was measured at 1 in 15, this would probably have been assisted by a winch.

(J. Shenton).

MEETINGS

JULY

Monday 3rd, 8 p.m.

EARLY INHABITANTS OF SURREY. Talk by Miss J. Harding to Mayford H.S. at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford.

Saturday 15th, 8.45 a.m.

S.A.S. VISIT TO WANTAGE. (Full details were given in Bulletin 88.)

Tuesday 18th, 8 p.m.

THE HIPWELLS OF TOLWORTH. Talk by Mrs. A. Smith to Kingston upon Thames A.S. at the Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield Road, Kingston.

Friday 28th, 8 p.m.

POTTERY. Talk by Mr. R. Smith to Wandsworth H.S. at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

SEPTEMBER

Monday 4th, 8 p.m.

A VISIT TO RUSSIA. Talk by Mr. J. C. M. Blatch to Mayford H.S. in Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford.

Tuesday 5th, 8 p.m.

A.G.M. Kingston upon Thames A.S. at the Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield Road, Kingston.

Saturday 16th, 2-5 p.m.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGY IN CROYDON. Croydon N.H. and S.S. Symposium covering work carried out between 1970 and 1972 inclusive. At George Street Congregational Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove. Exhibition opens 1.30 p.m. Tickets, including tea, 30p.

Tuesday 19th, 8 p.m.

THE DUCHESS OF LAUDERDALE. Talk by Mr. H. Tims to Kingston upon Thames A.S. at the Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield Road, Kingston.

Friday 29th, 8 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF WANDSWORTH. Talk by Mr. R. Hearst to Wandsworth H.S. at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Next Issue

The next issue of the Bulletin will be in August, there will be none in September. Copy for the August issue is required by 5th July.

interests, publications and other particulars of the societies listed within and which is available for consultation at any time that the library is open (Mondays and Saturdays 10-5, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10-8, Wednesdays 10-1).

The increase in the number of organisations included in this new list reflects the growing interest in local history in all parts of Surrey. The compilers hope that this third edition may help to foster the spirit of goodwill and mutual help which has always been a happy characteristic of local historians in this county.

Women's Institutes in many parts of Surrey take an active interest in the histories of their areas and students are advised not to overlook these societies in their work. The names and addresses of the Secretaries of local branches are obtainable from the Secretary of the Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes whose name and address are given in this list.

Every entry in the list has been checked for accuracy in the last two or three months but, despite this, it is still possible that there may be some errors and omissions. Secretaries who find such faults with regard to their organisations are earnestly requested to send full particulars to the address given below.

The compilers would welcome information concerning new organisations under the following headings:

- Name of society or institution,
- Name, address and telephone number of Secretary,
- Subscription rates,
- Main interests of organisation,
- Publications.

It would also be of the greatest assistance if Secretaries would notify the compilers of any important changes under any of the above headings when they occur.

This list may be obtained from: L.H.O., Central Public Library, Stafford Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6JG. Tel: Caterham 43580. Telex: 21116.

Kingston: Picton House—Secretary of State's decision

Following the public inquiry last August on the above listed building (cf S.A.S. Bulletin 83, November 1971), it has recently been announced that Peter Walker, Secretary of State for the Environment, has dismissed the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames's application for listed building consent to demolish the building.

The decision letter noted that there were relatively few listed buildings in Kingston and that Picton House was considered clearly of special architectural or historic interest. "This being so, the presumption is that the building should be preserved unless a convincing case for its demolition can be made out."

The Secretary of State accepted the Greater London Council's view that restoration of the building might well be uneconomic, but this was not regarded as in itself constituting a sufficient case for demolition. If adequate maintenance or the letting of the building in recent years had taken place the cost of restoration would have been less and it would not have been in its present poor condition. "If disrepair to which the owner's neglect has significantly contributed were always to be accepted as a compelling reason for allowing demolition, it would be an encouragement to owners to neglect their buildings if they wanted to demolish them."

The letter also indicated that it should not be difficult to find an occupant for the building situated in a main road facing the grounds of Hampton Court Palace and in the centre of a developing business area, and that the retention of Picton House would not impose undesirable constraints on the redevelopment of the remainder of the site.

The decision is an encouraging one for the High Street section of the conservation area and for the future of historic buildings in the borough generally, but the reactions of Kingston Council are still awaited.

(Marion P. Smith).

Windslesham: Possible Roman Road Section on M3 Motorway (SU 932631)

Both side ditches of the motorway show a band of pebbles with a little broken tile, 12in. below the surface, 18in. thick and approximately 30ft. wide on a bearing of 345° Grid, which aligns to the north with Windslesham Church SU 930637, on high ground, and to the south with a gravel ford over the Windle Brook at SU 934625, with "Broad Street" at SU 938608 and with another gravel ford over the Bourne at SU 940603.

This alignment could be a continuation of the Rowhook-Farley Heath branch road from the Stane Street (Margary No. 151) and if so is apparently heading towards the Roman Temple site at Weycock Hill SU 821777 and the ford over the Thames below Hambleden Lock at SU 787845.

The route of the road from Jelley's Hollow TQ 067426 has been plotted to Windslesham; those interested may obtain a sketch map from the contributor.

(O. F. E. Charleton).

Southwark: Excavations at Toppings Wharf, Tooley Street, 1971-72 (TQ 328803)

Excavations have revealed a group of rectangular Flavian Buildings possibly aligned on an earlier version of the river bank or Tooley Street. Internal partition walls of clay, some with plaster facing, show that they were sub-divided into chambers. The buildings directly overlay an east-west ditch may have served as a quarry for the gravel and clay used in the construction. In restricted parts of the site less deeply affected by eighteenth and nineteenth century cellars, layers of earth containing first to fourth century Roman pottery overlie the structural levels. They might indicate flooding of the site some time after the end of the first century A.D.

An erosion, probably in the late thirteenth or fourteenth century, has taken out the river side of these buildings and destroyed the evidence for the Roman edge of the south bank. This erosion also destroyed a building with chalk and gravel foundations probably of the twelfth century. Similar foundations of later medieval buildings have been found cut through post-erosion deposits.

Excavations are now taking place at 207-211 Borough High Street, SE1, Wednesday to Sunday each week.

(Harvey Sheldon).

Merstham: Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Railway, Quarry Dene (TQ 29945395)

Excavation of the Iron Railway has now ceased due to M23 motorway activities. The route of the line was traced for a distance of 200 metres along the trackway leading south-east to Quarry Dene from Greystone lime works.

The single line of the railway ran down the west side of the trackway to a point north of the mine entrance known as Withy Pit. At this point the railway divided into a number of lines which probably served the Withy Pit and another mine known as the No. 2.

At one point the railway passed over a pit 5ft. square with dressed masonry walls set in mortar and having a raised stone platform in the centre. This may have been a weighbridge or perhaps part of the equipment used for lowering the heavy iron trucks up and down the steep slope into the mine.