

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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BULLETIN

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Edited by Nancy Cox, "Karm", 108 Westfield Road,
Mayford, Woking GU22 9QP

POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that it is necessary to postpone the Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the incorporated Surrey Archaeological Society and that these meetings will now be held on Saturday, 2nd December, 1978 at 2.30 p.m. in the Central Lecture Theatre Block of the University of Surrey, Guildford. There is an adjacent car park (No. 1 East).

C. P. Moss,
Honorary Secretary

The Agenda for the Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting were published in *Bulletin* No. 150, September 1978. Nominations for election to Council have been received in respect of W. J. Blair, Dr A. G. Crocker, and P. W. Sowan. Further nominations for election under items 4-8 of the Agenda should be sent to the Secretary not less than seven days before the meeting.

After the Annual General Meeting there will be a lecture illustrated by some Surrey examples on

Records and Realities
by

Dr Arnold Taylor, CBE, MA, FBA, FSA, FRHistS

EXCAVATION NOTICE

REIGATE: OLD VICARAGE SITE (TQ 25705036)
(Director: David Williams)

Excavation is now taking place on Sundays. Further details from David Williams, who can be contacted during the day on 01-223 3431.

NOTES AND QUERIES

New Members from 1.7.78

P. J. Wild, 110 Brighton Road, Banstead, SM7 1BU

C. W. Roberts, 74 Burhill Road, Hersham, KT12 4JF

D. C. Gifford, Crosslands, Guildford Road, Effingham, KT24 5PE

D. R. Bennett, 11 Brodie Road, Guildford, GU1 3RZ

Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group, Caretaker's Flat, The Town Hall,
Staines, Middx., TW18 4RH

K. F. N. Flynn, 16 The Drive, Coulsdon, CR3 2BL

R. J. S. Turner, MA, Tye Cottage, Bennett Way, West Clandon, Guildford, GU4 7TN

Prof M. R. C. McDowell, FInstP, FRAS, Innisfayle, Heathside Park Road, Woking, GU22 7JF

Mrs M. Jeans, Foxbury, Old Reigate Road, Dorking, RH4 1NU

Miss S. C. Brown, Moor Dell, Gasden Copse, Witley, Godalming, GU8 5QE

L. J. Sears, 27 Thornash Close, Horsell, Woking, GU21 4UW

Surrey Record Society

The Society, which exists to publish records relating to the historic county, has two volumes at press. The first is the **Deposition Book of Richard Wyatt, JP, 1767-1776**, edited by Elizabeth Silverthorne. The volume will be issued to present members and to new members, private and institutional, who subscribe for the year started 1st January, 1978. It illustrates the work of a JP, usually acting alone. The depositions heard by Wyatt range from matters relating to the legal settlement of paupers to horse-stealing and highway robbery. Some of the evidence given led to proceedings at assizes or quarter sessions; where possible, verdicts have been traced in the records.

The second volume, to be issued early in 1979, is the first part of the late C. A. F. Meeking's **The 1235 Surrey Eyre**. It includes his analytical introduction and 120 fully annotated biographies, mainly of gentry of the historic county. Mr Meekings has shown the importance of eyre rolls for social, economic and local as well as legal history; he has illustrated their use in the construction of biographies of men who lived in the county many years ago. Volume 2 will contain the text, both crown and civil pleas, translation by Dr David Crook who is preparing the edition for press, notes (which include some minor biographies) and indexes to both volumes. **The Surrey Eyre** will be one of the Society's important publications and its issue is being widely publicized.

Editions issued by the Society are consulted by Surrey archaeologists and local historians, but few of them have joined the Society. If other volumes now in preparation are to be published in the interest of searchers increased membership is essential. Users of the Society's volumes are urged to join now and to encourage others to do likewise. The subscription, £5 a year, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs E. A. Stazicker, 23 Homersham Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 3PL (or c/o Surrey Record Office), who will be pleased to send further particulars and details of past publications still available.

(M. Gollancz, Hon. Editor)

Surrey History Vol. 2 No. 1

The current issue of **Surrey History** published by Phillimore on behalf of the Surrey Local History Council, will be on sale at the Dorking Symposium on Saturday, 18th November, and will also be obtainable through member societies.

Articles in this issue include "Surrey Churches—Saxon to Georgian" by Mervyn Blatch; "Payment by Results"—Elementary Education in Mid-Victorian Cheam" by Stephen Turner; "Memories of a Cabinet Makers' Apprentice" by E. J. Yates, and "Surrey Record Office—Accession of Records, 1977" by D. B. Robinson.

(R. O. Chalkley)

Guildford: Friary (centred TQ 995495)

An excavation took place at the Friary site, Guildford, between 8th March and 21st June, 1978. This was undertaken prior to redevelopment of the site and followed upon Humphrey Woods' excavation of 1974 (Bulletin 110). The excavation was under the auspices of Guildford Museum and the Surrey Archaeological Society, with the aid of grants from the Department of the Environment, Guildford Borough Council and MEPC Ltd., the site contractors. The ready help and co-operation of MEPC, New Haw Enterprises Ltd. (the demolition contractors), and Wimpeys (the building contractors) helped considerably in ensuring the success of the excavations.

In 1974 the excavation had uncovered the plan of many of the cloister buildings as well as the chancel of the Dominican Priory. The 1978 work was intended to complete the plan of the Priory church by uncovering the nave and cross walls, to examine the presumed area of the cemetery and also to look for the Priory Gatehouse. Lack of time meant no adequate examination of events in the post-Priory period could be made.

One point about those events was, however, clear. When, soon after 1630, the Earl of Annandale had built his mansion, clearance for the gardens which he made considerably reduced the ground level in the area of the church and cemetery. This meant not only that the floor levels of the church were almost entirely erased but also that many bodies were removed from the cemetery. Those bodies that were left were often badly damaged. Additionally this circumstance helps to explain the paucity of medieval finds.

Much of the nave and cross walls was uncovered. Both had suffered badly from later disturbance, making precise interpretation difficult. The south wall of the church was the best preserved and showed evidence of two phases of construction. The north wall, by contrast, was heavily damaged. Enough remained, however, to demonstrate that there was an entrance through it from the western cloister alley to the nave, and that a small tower was probably founded on it at the eastern end. An entrance to the nave from the south side of the church, between the terminal of the south wall and the cross walls, also seemed likely. Originally there were no aisles in the nave, but a series of post holes (one of which cuts the fill of a grave), may represent a later separation of a south aisle from the rest of the nave. The major features within the nave are some 28 burials. Some of these, as a result of subsidence, have helped preserve small patches of flooring. This consists of tile impressions in mortar. More extensive areas of flooring were found in the alley between the north wall of the church and the garth wall. Here several tiles remained *in situ*. The western end of the church clearly underlies Onslow Street.

A total of 60 articulated burials was uncovered. Besides this, remains of at least another 50 individuals were found. The latter total includes an estimate for the minimum number of individuals represented in a pit which

contained a mass of leg bones and skulls. This pit is presumably the work of the Earl of Annandale's men. A number of skeletons having been disturbed in clearance for the mansion gardens, the small bones were crushed, and the larger, stronger bones reburied. Of the articulated burials some 45 per cent were buried in coffins. These were all wooden with one exception, which deserves further comment. This was the burial of a young woman in a lead coffin placed in a setting of well mortared chalk blocks. This careful and costly internment was, presumably, of a person of considerable importance. Other burials of note include one, originally in a brick built vault, the remains of which had been tipped on one side of the grave. One supposes that the grave was robbed for the lead coffin it contained soon after the Dissolution.

Thus most of the objectives outlined in the second paragraph were attained. The site of the Gatehouse was not discovered and it must lie beneath Onslow Street. Even without this, the plan now obtained as a result of the 1974 and 1978 excavations of the Guildford Blackfriars is more complete than that of any other Dominican Priory in England. Additionally, study of the skeletal material will provide considerable demographic information on medieval Guildford. Before that can proceed, and the full significance of the excavation be comprehended, a considerable amount of post-excavation work must be done.

(R. J. Poulton)

"Guildford As It Was"

Copies in addressed envelopes will be in Castle Arch Library by the end of October for collection by those members who have sent pre-publication orders. Thereafter copies will be available in local bookshops.

(J. A. Cowie)

Reigate, Old Vicarage Site (TQ 25705036)

After trial trenching in Spring 1977, excavation of the Old Vicarage recommenced last Summer as a training excavation under David Bird and has since been continuing at weekends.

It is clear now that this building (demolished in 1847) was substantially a medieval hall house lying on an east west axis, parallel to the present A25 to the east of the town, and originating in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. The remains lie in what was the garden of its Victorian successor and were consequently much damaged by pits, drains, etc. It has not so far proved possible to correlate the excavated structures with the early nineteenth century watercolour by Hassell, but a recently discovered postcard reproduction of a pencil drawing, if interpreted correctly, seems to show the building with a crosswing which may lie in the area so far unexcavated.

The pre-Vicarage occupation

The earliest clay floor seals a sandy, grey soil containing much early medieval, sandy and shelly pottery as well as bone and some iron fragments including the point of a prick spur. Some Roman tile fragments may relate to the Doods Road site nearby and constitute the first Roman finds from Reigate excavations. It is uncertain whether various post-holes cut into

this grey soil relate to the Vicarage or to an earlier occupation. The curious, heavily reddened structure of mortar and ironstone (*Bulletin* No. 140) lies at the base of this layer and still awaits excavation, but must date to the twelfth century or earlier. There has been little further pottery similar to the Saxo-Norman sherd found while trial-trenching in 1977.

The Medieval Building

Of the original building both front, rear and one side wall have so far been located. The front wall was rebuilt in brick at a later date and its original form is uncertain though it seems to have been of mortared stone, presumably supporting a timber structure. The original rear wall only partly survives where the clay floor ends and gives the house an original internal depth of about 25ft (7.6m). The side wall is more substantially constructed of large Reigate stone blocks and retains a plaster facing against which floor levels have accumulated. At this date one would expect an aisled hall but evidence for aisle posts is so far lacking. Two internal walls are almost certainly original, one is much damaged but has a foundation course of large blocks, the other is not yet fully uncovered. They lie respectively 20 and 5ft from the east side wall. The western of these two walls probably formed the east end of the hall whose open rectangular hearth was also found in the spring of 1977. The earliest floor, where it survives, consists of a spread of yellow or grey clay several inches thick. In the early fourteenth century a narrow, vertical-sided trench ending in a sub-rectangular pit was cut through this floor to the natural subsoil. As this runs parallel and so close to the front wall that it cannot represent the course of a further wall, its purpose remains obscure. It contained a little domestic rubbish, an iron arrowhead, but very little pottery. Its relationship to other internal structures is uncertain.

The two original internal walls were demolished, not necessarily together, in the fourteenth century and were succeeded by a further wall lying roughly midway between them, of which only a short stretch survives. The remainder of its course is implied by sinkage of the clay floor. This wall, which retains plaster on one face, was pierced by a doorway of which two post-holes have been found. One contained fragments probably of a glazed roof-finial.

The later floor levels

It is certain that most of the later floor levels were removed, either at the demolition or earlier. Patches, however, survived but their relationships to structures and to each others is seldom clear. Survival was best against the east side wall where above the original clay floor lay the edge of a chalk floor and also a build up of dark loam at the base of which was half of a much broken fourteenth century white ware bowl. This layer presumably reflects a build up of domestic refuse rather than indicating a long period of abandonment. It contained little pottery or bone however. The remains of an east west wall with plastered faces overlay this loam and this formed the limit of a final, probably early eighteenth century floor of chalk and clay.

The post Medieval period

In the sixteenth century a brick and stone chimney was added, occupying the site of the earlier doorway. This faced away from the hall although its rear face projected into it. Part of the blackened hearth was still in position and the underlying clay floor was baked red for a considerable area around. Incorporated in its construction were a number of reused stones including the base of a small attached column and a similar, moulding. These may have come from Reigate Castle which was being quarried at this time. Perhaps also at this period the Vicarage was extended to the rear giving a new depth of nearly 40ft. This new rear wall is represented by a 5ft wide spread of clay-bonded rubble. A further east west internal wall was also probably built at this time. This was partly constructed of Paludina limestone rubble and brick, ending in a rectangular projection.

In the eighteenth century a 3ft square brick structure was built adjacent to the side wall. This was probably a cesspit with access from outside. Further brick extensions lie outside the excavation.

An area outside the front of the building was excavated in 1977 and this located two brick and stone eighteenth century drains as well as superimposed eighteenth and nineteenth century courtyard surfaces. Post-pits cut here into the natural sand represent a pre-seventeenth century timber structure lying mostly outside the excavation.

Most of the finds have come from the areas outside the Vicarage and these have included a mid-seventeenth century bronze spur with decorated terminals, a lead bale seal, various bone objects, pins and lace tags as well as four farthings of Charles I, one of Charles II and three jetons.

It is hoped to complete excavation of this part of the building later this year.

(David Williams)

Recent publications

- Alcock, Joan** (1978). Lady Bessborough and Roehampton Life. *The Wandsworth Historian*, 18, 1-5.
- Booth, A.** (1978). The Importance of Waverley Abbey. *Farnham MS Newsletter*, Vol. V, 2, 34-35.
- Brooks, P. D.** (1978). Farnham Castle, and sources of stone for buildings at Farnham Castle and other places. *Farnham Museum Society Newsletter*, Vol. V, 3, 43-47.
- Cresswell, John** (1978). The Well House, Streatham. *Southwark & Lambeth AS Newsletter*, 45.
- Farrant, N. M.** (1978). Felsham Road and Olivette Street excavations—notes. *The Wandsworth Historian*, 18, 13.
- Greenwood, G. B.** (1978). Rifle Range at West End, Esher (1850/1860—after 1914/18 War). *Esher District LHS Newsletter* 41, 310.
- Logan, R.** (1978). Latchmere Housing Estate, Battersea. *The Wandsworth Historian* 18, 8-10.
- Langdon, A.** (1978). The Pilgrim's Way—Fact or Fiction. *Farnham MS Newsletter*, Vol. V, 3, 53-56.

- Mayford History Society** (1978). Woking Borough Trail: No. 1—Old Woking. 10p (18p incl. postage) from R. O. Chalkley, Fishers Hill Cottage, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.
- Oliver, J.** (1978). Notes on the Royal Arms in St Mary's Church, Send, and their recent renovation. Send HS Newsletter 21, 2-3.
- Pollock, D.** (1978). Wandsworth's First Railway Station. The Wandsworth Historian 18, 6-7.
- Rudling, D.** (1978). Roman Finds from Warlingham, TQ 362584. Notes on watching of development site, and resulting small number of finds, including some RB pottery. Bourne Society Bulletin 93, 4-5.

MEETINGS

OCTOBER

Monday 23rd, 8 p.m.

THE STORY OF APPS COURT AND ITS OWNERS. Talk by Rowland Baker to Walton & Weybridge LHS at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1st, 8 p.m.

THE HISTORY OF PAPER-MAKING IN ENGLAND. Talk by Gerard Pink to Nonsuch AS in St Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.

Friday 3rd, 7.45 p.m.

THE BORDERS CERAMIC RESEARCH GROUP'S ACTIVITIES. Talk by Kenneth Barton to Farnham Museum Society in the Council Chamber, Farnham Locality Office, South Street.

Tuesday 7th, 8.15 p.m.

OLD CLAPHAM. Talk by E. E. F. Smith to Southwark & Lambeth AS in the Durning Library, Kennington Cross.

Wednesday 8th, 8 p.m.

FURTHER ASPECTS OF PUTNEY'S PAST. Talk by Dorian Gerhold to Wandsworth HS at West Hill Library.

Friday 10th, 7.45 p.m.

HISTORIC COSTUME: FROM THE CLASSICAL TO THE ROMANTIC. Talk by Mrs Jean Stevens to Farnham MS in the Council Chamber, Farnham Locality Office, South Street.

Thursday 16th, 8 p.m.

STUART AND GEORGIAN HOUSES. Talk by Kenneth Gravett to Send HS in the Church Room, Send Road, Send.

Thursday 16th, 7.30 p.m.

J. B. PAPWORTH, ARCHITECT. Talk by G. McHardy to Clapham AS in St Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, SW12.

Friday 24th, 8 p.m.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN KINGSTON. Talk by a member of the Kingston-upon-Thames AS to the Wandsworth HS at the Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Next Bulletin: A joint one for November/December, for which copy is required by the 5th October.

Following Bulletin: January—for which copy is required before the end of November.