

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD
BULLETIN

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

NOTES AND QUERIES

Honorary Bulletin Editor

From January 1979 the Editor will be Lesley Ketteringham, and all correspondence should be addressed to her at "Orchard Cottage", Godstone, Surrey. Tel: Godstone 2660.

LAMAS/SAS Joint Publication No. 1

The publication of these volumes (Southwark Excavations 1972-4), which was announced in *Bulletin* No. 147, has unfortunately been subject to delay at the printers and they are not now likely to be available until January 1979. All the proof reading is finished, but the printers are not able to fit the work in to their printing programme until December. Details of places and times for collection by those members who opted to collect their volumes will appear in the January *Bulletin*.

(Hon. Editor)

New Members from 25.9.78

R. P. Broad, MA, Belmore, Brook Road, Wormley, Godalming, GU8 5SG
Mr and Mrs Eames, 55 Anne Boleyn's Walk, Sutton, SM3 8DE

Miss J. A. Green, 2 Beech Gardens, Church Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4QT

Mrs J. A. Halstead, BA, 19a Ennismore Avenue, Guildford GU1 1SP

M. D. Watts, 20 Aldenholme, Weybridge, KT13 0JF

B. J. Wright, MIST, 36 Hinton Road, Wallington, SM6 9AU

Recent accessions to the Society's Library (previous list in *Bulletin* 147, May 1978)

1. GENERAL

Association of County Archaeological Officers. Guide to the establishment of site and monument records. 1978

Barley, M. W., ed. European towns: their archaeology and early history. 1977

Bender, B. Farming in prehistory. 1975

Bodley, H. and Hallar, M. Elementary surveying for industrial archaeologists. 1978

British archaeological reports. 1978

46. **Farrell, R. T.,** ed. Bede and Anglo-Saxon England

48. **Bowen, H. C. and Fowler, P. J.,** eds. Early land settlement

49. **Lang, B.** Anglo-Saxon and Viking age sculpture

- Brown, D. Anglo-Saxon England. 1978
 Campbell, J. B. Upper palaeolithic of Britain. 1977
 Casteel, R. Fish remains in archaeology. 1976
 Clark, G. World prehistory: a new perspective. Ed. 3. 1977
 Clarke, D. L. Spatial archaeology. 1977
 Clayton, P. Archaeological sites of Britain. 1977
 Colvin, H. M., ed. History of the King's works. Vol. 5. 1977
 Commissie Modernisering Leerplan Geschiedenis en Staatsinrichting.
 Archaeologie en geschiedenisonderwijs. 1978
 Coy, J. First aid for animal bones. 1978 (Mrs A. Knee)
 Darby, H. C. Domesday England. 1977
 Dept. of the Environment. Structure plans: the examination in public.
 1973
 Doran, J. E. and Hodson, P. R. Mathematics and computers in archaeo-
 logy. 1975
 Evans, E. J. Tithes and the Tithe Commutation Act, 1836. 1978
 Evans, J. G. Introduction to environmental archaeology. 1978
 — — Land snails in archaeology. 1972
 Harding, D. Prehistoric Europe. 1978.
 Institute of Archaeology. Archaeological theses in progress. 1977
 London Museum. Mediaeval catalogue. 1940, reprinted 1975
 Macfarlane, A. Reconstructing historical communities. 1977
 McLeod, R. I. Temperature measurement in an experimental firing of a
 Romano-British pottery kiln at Alice Holt. 1978 (University of Surrey)
 Original parish registers in record offices. 1974. Supplement. 1976
 Peacock, D. P. S. Pottery and early commerce. 1975
 Renfrew, J. M. First aid for seeds. 1975
 — — Palaeoethnobotany. 1973
 Ross, A. Pagan Celtic Britain. 1974
 Schubert, H. R. History of the British Iron and Steel industry. 1957
 Thompson, P. The voice of the past: oral history. 1978
 Titow, J. Z. Winchester yields. 1972 (G. H. Underwood)
 Turner, J. M. The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. Vol. 2.
 1978
 Vita Finzi, C. Archaeological sites in their setting. 1978
 Wachter, J. Roman Britain. 1978
 Webster, G. Boudica. 1978
 White, H. L. Monuments and their inscriptions. 1978

2. LOCAL, EXCLUDING SURREY

- The Archaeology of the London area: current knowledge and problems.
 1976 (LAMAS)
 Brown, A. E. and Sheldon, H. An early pottery factory in North London.
 1973
 Leighton, B. A short history of Tyneham [Dorset]. 1977. (Author)
 Major, J. K. Finch Brothers foundry. 1974 (J. L. Nevinson)
 Parrington, M. Excavation of an Iron Age settlement, Bronze Age ring
 ditches and Roman features at Ashville trading estate, Abingdon,
 1974-76. 1978
 Pullen, D. E. Sydenham. 1975
 West Sussex County Council. Archaeology in West Sussex. 1977

3. SURREY, GENERAL

- Guildford House Galleries.** A picturesque ride through Surrey: [catalogue of an exhibition of Hassell drawings]. 1978. (Guildford Corporation)
- Jekyll, G.** Old West Surrey. Reprint 1977 (Messrs Kohler and Coombes, 12 Horsham Road, Dorking. Price £7.00)
- Mee, A.** The King's England: Surrey. Rev. ed. 1966
- Yates, M. T.** Surrey stories, Bk. 1. n.d.

4. SURREY, LOCAL

- Barnes and Mortlake Historical Society.** Barnes and Mortlake as it was. 1977. (R. C. Gill)
- — Miscellany, 1966-75. 1975 (R. C. Gill)
- Crimp, C. and Grimwade, M.** Milbourne House, Barnes. 1978 (R. C. Gill)
- Elmbridge Borough Council.** Directory of local organisations. 1978
- Gill, R. C.** Street names of Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen. Ed. 2. 1977 (R. C. Gill)
- Ginever, E. D.** Seale in Surrey, n.d.
- Green, G. W. C.** The story of Wandsworth and Putney, n.d.
- Guildford official guide.** 1966
- Leighton, B.** A history of parochial schooling in Wonersh and Shamley Green, 1683-1977. 1977 (Author)
- St Catherine's Village Association.** Round about and all about St Catherine's. 1978 (T. E. C. Walker)
- Sanders, B. M.** Mortlake British Schools. 1978 (R. C. Gill)
- Stanway, O.** The story of Akewood church. 1940, reprinted 1978
- Stock, P.** "Upon their foundation": a history of the Church School in Godalming. 1977 (Author)
- Stonebanks, J. A.** Mount Felix, Walton on Thames. 1978 (Walton and Weybridge LHS)

Egham: Salvage and Excavation at Runnymede Bridge 1978 (TQ 019719)

In April of this year in the course of a watching brief, archaeological deposits were identified by David Barker (Egham-by-Runnymede Society) in the sections of a foundation trench dug behind a coffer dam in preparation for the construction of the new Runnymede M25 bridge. By kind permission of the contractors, Fairclough Civil Engineering Ltd., it was possible to clean down and record much of the extensive sections extant, and to plan a restricted area of exposed archaeological levels containing structural evidence. In the process of this salvage work it became apparent that the site had considerable potential and permission was sought to excavate a little-disturbed area due to be buried under the bridge embankment. Subsequently, the Department of Transport, in consultation with Ove Arup & Partners (Consultant Engineers) and Fairclough, granted permission for a four week excavation to be financed by the Department of the Environment. Excavation took place throughout July under the direction of David Longley and Stuart Needham on behalf of the Surrey Archaeological Society.

The area of excavation was centred on an undisturbed stretch of a Late Bronze Age river channel—fully silted up and lying 30 metres inland from the present southern bank of the Thames. The most significant structural element of the site consisted of a double row of pile-driven timbers set into

the foot of the Late Bronze Age bank, their lower parts preserved due to continuous waterlogged conditions, below the water table, since the Bronze Age. The timbers have shaped tips retaining finely preserved axe facets, but otherwise are young tree trunks averaging 20 centimetres diameter, often with bark intact. Interpretation of the superstructure of the timber rows will be speculative but some sort of river-front landing stage, serving the dual function of consolidating the natural bank and facilitating the mooring of river-craft, seems highly probable.

Immediately behind the timber rows the ancient river bank rose steeply to a level clay platform a little above the present water table, upon which a thick dark deposit rich in occupational debris attests intensive occupation. A number of pits and post-holes dug into the clay subsoil were associated, but reconstruction of structures on the basis of their plan will be limited by the relatively small area opened up. Artifactual material from the Late Bronze Age levels comprised a large assemblage of pottery, both fine and coarsewares, spindle-whorls, loomweights, and other ceramic forms, bronze metal, worked bone, antler and flint, and more noteworthy perhaps, a wooden cup. An equally large assemblage of faunal remains should provide important information concerning pastoral economy and animal utilisation. The occupation would appear, on a provisional assessment, to be largely contemporary with that of other recently excavated sites close by at Runnymede Bridge in 1976, and 400 metres inland at Petters Sports Field 1976-7, and will have a further bearing on the extent and nature of settlement at Egham during this period.

The natural Late Bronze Age river bank was sealed by a sequence of dipping silt deposits underlain by a charcoal-packed layer possibly associated with initial clearance of vegetation on the site. The stratigraphical relationship between these "outwash" deposits and the timber rows allows identification of a phase in the sequence by which the river-front structures had fallen out of use.

The importance of the site was further increased during the salvage operation by the recovery of a quantity of Neolithic artifacts apparently associated with structural features including a brushwood platform. The approximate stratigraphy established for these remains enabled the prediction of comparable material over a metre below the Late Bronze Age occupation platform; consequently, two trenches within the excavated area were taken down to the appropriate depth, a Hymac being used to remove the largely sterile intermediate layers. A Neolithic level was successively located comprising a scatter of pottery and animal bone, although, disappointingly, there was an absence of structural evidence on this part of the site. The material was stratified within a complex succession of organic muds, sands and shingles, and possibly lay in a derived context.

Of crucial importance to the understanding of the nature of settlement and land-use for the respective phases will be the results of environmental sampling carried out on the site by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory and others. The two major stratigraphical sequences, the one sealed beneath the Late Bronze Age occupation platform, incorporating the Neolithic levels, the other accumulated within the Late Bronze Age river channel, seem to have considerable potential for a variety of environmental evidence including pollen and macroscopic plant remains, insects, snails and sedimentological evidence, these offering the opportunity of

establishing a framework for environmental change in the Thames Valley related to later prehistoric settlement and economy. The resultant increase in our understanding of land-use around Runnymede Bridge would also have wider implications for British prehistoric studies in general.

It is hoped to obtain a representative series of radio-carbon dates, for both the Neolithic levels and a variety of Late Bronze Age contexts, which should help elucidate the absolute chronology of the stratigraphical succession. An interim report to appear in due course will be followed by the full report, hopefully in two-three years, when the various analyses have been completed and assimilated.

(David Longley, Stuart Needham)

Salfords: Acheulian handaxe (TQ 284473)

The writer has recently found, on ploughed land, a rolled and broken ovate handaxe of Acheulian type, original dimensions approx. 8.3 cm. (3¼ in.) by 5.7 cm. (2¼ in.) by 2.5 cm. (1 in.). The axe is deeply ochreous and was found, associated with traces of superficial gravel overlying Weald clay, at 70 m. (230 ft.) OD on what is a fragment of the Older or 230 foot Terrace of the Upper Mole. (Proc. Geol. Ass. XLV, 42.) The only other recorded find of a palaeolithic handaxe from the 230 foot Terrace was made at Woodhatch in 1936 (SAC XLV, 140), 3 km. (1.9 miles) NW of this latest find spot.

North of the find spot observations were made of the land clearance and subsequent excavation of a 1.2 km. (0.75 miles) water main trench, cut entirely into Weald clay, from TQ 279473 to TQ 291474 which passed within 20 m. (66 ft.) of a deserted medieval farmstead site (SAS Bulletin 143, 4). The only finds were six flint flakes, all attributable to post glacial eras.

(R. L. Ellaby)

Book Reviews

William Smith, Potter and Farmer: 1790-1858, by George Sturt (Caliban Books, £7.50)

This book, originally published in 1919 under the pseudonym of George Bourne, tells the story of the author's grandfather William Smith, who had his farm and pottery in the old village of Farnborough, Hampshire, now known as Farnborough Street. William Smith's half-timbered farmhouse (pictured on the dustjacket) still stands at the crossroads of Swan Lane and Highgate Lane although his kiln was demolished over 100 years ago and its site has been built over.

The book includes many fascinating details about the local pottery industry which flourished in the 19th century to the extent that 13 kilns existed in the neighbouring parish of Cove. Much of the information given, for instance about marketing, transport, and sources of clay and fuel, is especially valuable because of the general lack of knowledge about such aspects of the industry; although readers who look solely for matters of archaeological interest will often find the author's discursive style frustrating. One is constantly aware that Sturt could have conveyed so much more about the potters' practices if his chief purpose had not been to highlight the homely scenes of his grandparents' domestic and social

life and their village background. Nonetheless, the book remains a useful source of information and is of general interest to anyone familiar with the area around Farnborough.

The Bettesworth Book, by George Sturt (Caliban Books, £7.50)

Another book by "George Bourne", first published in 1901, recording conversations with his old gardener Frederick Grover (alias Bettesworth) who worked for him in the 1890s at his cottage near Farnham. Bettesworth, a Hampshire man who must have been born about the time of Queen Victoria's accession, tried his hand at a variety of rural occupations in his younger days and the book records his experiences as a carter, builder's labourer, harvester, well-digger, pig-keeper and gardener together with many incidents in his domestic life. These are recounted verbatim in Bettesworth's Hampshire dialect, and the atmosphere of humble rural life in Victorian times is thus vividly recreated, as the author intended: but in consequence the book is largely a collection of anecdotes which reveal more of nineteenth century attitudes than social history—pleasant reading for a winter evening, but rather expensive for most readers unless they have a special fondness for the Hampshire dialogue in a Victorian setting.

(Felix Holling)

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Unfortunately details of the Autumn courses arranged by the University were not received in time for insertion in the September *Bulletin*, but Mrs Linda Thompson will be pleased to give details of future courses to anyone who applies to her at:

The Department of Adult Education,
University of Surrey,
Guildford GU2 5XH.

READING OLD DOCUMENTS

Wednesday, 10th January, 1979. 7.30-9.30 p.m.

Mrs S. Corke, MA, B.Litt.

Muniment Room, Guildford Museum, Quarry Street, Guildford.

(Guildford WEA. Hon Secretary: Mrs C. Lester, New House, Old Kiln Close, Churt, Farnham. Tel. Headley Down 2060.)

HISTORY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, 9th January, 1979. 7.30-9.30 p.m.

Mr F. Williams, B.Ed.

Ashford College, Church Road, Ashford.

This course is based upon the Industrial Revolution, and will include a close examination of the building of successive bridges at Staines.

(Spelthorne Adult Education Institute, Kingston Road, Staines, Middx. TW18 4LN. Tel. Staines 57372.)

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Study period of 10 weeks between February and April, 1979.
Fee: £8. Closing date for applications: 15th December, 1978.

DOING HISTORY

February/May 1979.

Fee: £8. Closing date for applications: 15th December, 1978.

Further details and application forms from:

The Associate Student Central Office,
The Open University,
P.O. Box 76,
Milton Keynes, MK7 6AN.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

9th ANNUAL KINGSTON WORKSHOP

Organised by Kingston Polytechnic Industrial
Archaeological Society

Friday, 1st December. 7 p.m.

Senior Common Room, Kingston Polytechnic, Knights Park,
Kingston-upon-Thames

There will be talks by invited speakers, ample time for discussion, displays by local groups, and free refreshments.

Further details may be obtained from Bryan Woodriff of the School of Liberal Studies at the Polytechnic.

LECTURES AND MEETINGS

THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS GUILDFORD SUB-BRANCH

Wednesday, 13th December at 1900

Lectures on SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN SURREY

Mr A. J. Clark (Ancient Monuments Laboratory) and Dr A. G. Crocker (University of Surrey).

Tea available at 1830 in the Lecture Theatre Concourse.

Lecture Theatre M, University of Surrey.

Mr Clark and Dr Crocker, with the help of some of their colleagues, will describe and demonstrate recent projects based on archaeological sites in the neighbourhood of Guildford. Examples include: (1) the location of sites using geophysical methods, (2) magnetic dating, (3) thermoluminescence dating, (4) elemental analysis of soil, bones, pottery and glass, (5) determination of firing temperatures of ancient ceramics, (6) scientific tests at experimental firings of Romano-British type kilns, and (7) computer processing of archaeological data.

NOVEMBER

Thursday 30th, 8 p.m.

THE HISTORY OF THE OREGON COUNTRY AND BRITISH COLOMBIA. Talk by Mrs. B. Withers to Oxted & District HS in the Lecture Room, Oxted Library, Gresham Road, Oxted.

DECEMBER

Friday 1st, 7.45 p.m.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT PETTER'S SPORTS FIELD, EGHAM. Talk by Martin O'Connell to Farnham & District MS in the Council Chamber, Farnham Locality Office, South Street, Farnham.

Friday 8th, 8 p.m.

WIMBLEDON VILLAGE. Talk by Norman Plastow to Merton HS in the Lecture Room, Morden Library, Morden Road, Morden.

Wednesday 13th, 8 p.m. (Provisionally)

THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES. Talk to Wandsworth HS in West Hill Library.

Thursday 14th, 8 p.m.

THE HISTORY OF PANTOMIME. Talk by Miss M. Hill to Oxted & District HS in the Lecture Room, Oxted Library, Gresham Road, Oxted.

Friday 15th, 7.45 p.m.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS OF THE CENTRAL EXCAVATION UNIT, DOE. Talk by Geoffrey Wainwright to the Archaeology Section of The Richmond Society in Richmond Adult College, Parkshot, Richmond.

JANUARY

Wednesday 10th, 8 p.m.

THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR. Talk by R. A. Shaw to Wandsworth HS in West Hill Library.

Thursday 11th, 8 p.m.

DULWICH: PORTRAIT OF A WARD. Talk by David Smith to Oxted & District HS in the Lecture Room, Oxted Library, Gresham Road, Oxted.

Friday 12th, 8 p.m.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION AND CRYSTAL PALACE. Talk by Dr Scott to Merton HS in the Lecture Room, Morden Library, Morden Road, Morden.

Wednesday 17th, 7.30 p.m.

GREEK TRAGEDY IN PERFORMANCE. Talk by Dr O. P. Taplin to Guildford Branch of the Classical Association with the Guildford Region Association of Classical Teachers. Place of meeting not yet fixed—please contact Guildford 61440—daytime, or Guildford 77144—evenings.

Thursday 18th, 8 p.m.

THE ROMAN FORTS OF THE SAXON SHORE. Talk by L. Gray-Jones to Oxted & District HS in the Lecture Room, Oxted Library, Gresham Road, Oxted.

Friday 19th, 7.45 p.m.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BRENTFORD. Talk by Alison Parnum to the Archaeology Section of The Richmond Society in Richmond Adult College, Parkshot, Richmond.

Next **Bulletin**: January, for which copy is required by the end of November. Following **Bulletin**: February, for which copy is required by the end of December.