



SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

BULLETIN

Number 207

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EXCAVATION AT WANBOROUGH

At the time of going to press (early November) work is still going on at Wanborough and is likely to continue for at least another month. The main excavation covers an area of approximately 30 by 10 metres. The extremely dry weather in October made the ground very hard and digging was really difficult. Recent rains have now made the surface very slippery. Martin O'Connell will present a report on the dig at the Excavation Symposium on 22nd February, details of which are given on the back page. The Appeal Fund stands at £16,000.

The photograph shows the S.A.S. President, Lady Hanworth, receiving the Conoco (UK) Ltd. cheque for £5,000 from Jeffrey Tetlow, Onshore Production Manager for Conoco. On the left is Lord Taylor of Hadfield, the landowner, who with Lady Taylor has kindly allowed the excavation to take place.



Listed Buildings: No Security without Vigilance

Many people imagine that once an old building is 'statutorily listed' then, apart from exceptional circumstances that will be well publicised, the building is protected against destruction and major alteration for all time. Little could be further from the truth.

An owner of a listed building (or, for that matter, a developer or other opportunist who is not yet the owner but who may have ideas about becoming the owner) can apply at any time for 'listed building consent' to demolish or alter. Such applications usually have to be determined by the local planning authority or, in rare cases, may be 'called in' and determined by the Department of the Environment. In either event, there is absolutely no guarantee that the local authority or government department will continue to seek to protect the listed building. There is also no guarantee that the local authority or government department will be in possession of more than a brief superficial description of the building to help it form an opinion about the historic value of the building or of the features it may contain. The brief description is likely to be concerned with external features and may, for example, concentrate on a Georgian front while ignoring the late medieval timber frame within.

Local authorities and government department alike are, however, susceptible to public pressure. If a member of the public or interested society takes the trouble to argue the case for preservation, to inform the local authority or government department about historically valuable aspects of the house that are not mentioned in the 'list', and to stress the value of those that are, then the local authority or government department is more likely than it would otherwise be to refuse to grant listed building consent and the building may be saved.

Of course, the system is stacked against the conservationist. A developer who is refused permission to demolish or alter can appeal against the refusal (and at the appeal, the amount of informed lay pressure will be a significant factor in the outcome). Even if his appeal fails, the developer can try again and again until he achieves his objective. Once listed building consent for demolition or alteration has been granted, there is no appeal: the day has been lost.

The preservation of our built heritage — especially the hidden and archaeologically informative parts — depends, and will continue to depend for the foreseeable future, on the informed and articulate vigilance of those of us who care. Experience shows that the effect of this vigilance is likely to be greater if it is directed through an established archaeological or amenity society.

Surrey is well endowed with both archaeological/historical societies and amenity societies. The aims of the two types of society are not quite the same but, in fact, are often complementary. The amenity society is likely to be mainly interested in the streetscape or visual merits of the listed (or other) building whereas the archaeological/historical society will be more appreciative of the information hidden within the building. It is important that both types of society (and the individuals who support them) should be involved in building conservation problems and lobbying. It is important that the whole of the county (but especially our vulnerable ancient town and village centres) should be covered by both types of society.

The Surrey Archaeological Society seeks to deal with these problems through its Conservation Committee. The Conservation Committee has a representative on the Surrey Amenity Council and its executive committee which ensures at least one close link with the amenity societies of the county. It also has a number of 'local buildings representatives' around the county who keep an eye on what is happening in their own areas. However, we need more of these and would like to hear from anyone interested in helping with this work (please write to me at home or at Castle Arch). We would like to hear not only from members of this Society wishing to take part but also from people associated only with a local society. At present coverage is particularly weak in parts of the Greater London area, in Elmbridge and in Waverley but we would welcome more help from every part of the county.

Dennis Turner,
Chairman, Conservation Committee

New Members

We welcome to the Society the following new members:

From September: C. S. S. Lyon, Cuedale, White Lane, Guildford GU4 8PR, Mrs. M. C. Wooldridge, 82 May Road, Twickenham, Middx. TW2 6RL, J. D. Precious, 26 Clappers Meadow, Alford, Cranleigh GU6 8HH, C. L. Barham, 55a The Street, Wrecclesham, Farnham GU10 4QS, G. F. Stonehouse, 7 Parkside Close, East Horsley KT24 5BY, Miss H. E. C. Davies, 6 St. Omer Road, Guildford GU1 2DB, M. J. Stone, 9 Grosvenor Road, London E6 1HE, G. M. Lipscombe, Bridgend House, Ockham Road, Ripley, G. P. Potter, 45 Lovelace Drive, Pyrford, Woking GU22 8QY, Mrs. J. M. Ellis, 137 Garlands Road, Redhill RH1 6NY.

From October:

Miss J. V. Stemp, 10 Benham's Drive, Horley RH6 8QR, Mr. M. Exwood, 64 The Green, Ewell, Epsom KT17 3JJ, Mr. and Mrs. S. Scregg, Chelwood, Birch Drive, Hawley Hill, Camberley GU17 9BY, Miss M. A. Pettit, 3 Garlands Court, Garlands Road, Leatherhead KT22 7EX, Mr. N. Riall, The Flat, 29 The Street, Wrecclesham, Farnham GU10 4QS.

Farnham Museum Appointment

Waverley Borough Council has recently appointed a Collections Assistant to Farnham Museum as part of the Farnham Archaeological Project. Part of the job of the Collections Assistant will be to locate and record archaeological assemblages collected in the Waverley area (either recently or a long time ago) and currently held by local groups or individuals. She would be interested to hear from anyone who has, or knows of such material. If you are able to help, please contact Ms Valerie Shelton-Bunn at Farnham Museum, Willmer House, West Street, Farnham (Farnham 715094).

SITE WATCHING REPORT

Reigate: Priory Park Motors, West Street (TQ 250504)

During March the site of the petrol station and showroom between West Street and Slipshoe Street was cleared of standing buildings leaving the surviving medieval undercroft to be incorporated into the new development. As before, access to the undercroft will continue, although at what times remains to be seen.

The Bulletin Editor sends all members of the Society best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 1986.

**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EXCAVATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
22 February 1986 in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls, Dorking
Chairman: Lady Rosamond Hanworth**

Programme:

- 10.30 Andrew Skelton: Nore Hill — results of excavations and fieldwork on a newly discovered hilltop earthwork near Chelsham.
- 11.00 Geraldene Done: What about the bones? The uses and limitations of animal bones from archaeological sites.
- 11.30 Discussion and short break.
- 11.40 Rob Poulton: Chertsey Abbey — analysis of the 1954 and earlier excavations together with the results of recent geophysical survey and excavation.
- 12.10 Scott McCracken: Kingston Horsefair — excavations near Kingston's bridge, including the rediscovered medieval undercroft.
- 12.40 Discussion, followed by lunch and opportunity to view the exhibits.
- 2.15 The Margary Award.
- 2.30 Martin O'Connell: the Wanborough excavation — rescuing the site from the treasure hunters.
- 3.00 Dr. John Kent: the Wanborough hoard — the transition from Celtic to Roman Britain south of the Thames.
- 4.00 Discussion and tea.

Coffee and tea will be available at a small charge at the breaks, and afternoon teas may be ordered in advance (at a cost of 75p). Admittance will be £2.00 at the door, but tickets may be bought in advance for £1.50 including postage. Applications for tickets and afternoon teas should be made to Mrs. S. Janaway at Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX. Cheques should be made payable to Surrey Archaeological Society. There is ample car parking space adjacent to the Dorking Halls; look for the long-term stay areas.

Other than the undercroft itself it was observed that no archaeological features had survived the construction of the petrol station. However, in the northeast of the site an east/west section approx. 1m deep was exposed, of which a length of approx. 5.5m could be recorded. This revealed at least three former surfaces of Slipshoe Street, the lowest being represented by a spread of compacted, black, smelly sand with, in one place, Reigate stone. This black sand contained well-preserved animal bone including an antler; leather fragments and a few small sherds of late 16th/early 17th century pottery. Among the small leather fragments which could, with difficulty be prised from the section were the end of a knife sheath and another, thicker piece, possibly from a shoe. A similar layer above contained no finds and was surfaced with a spread of flint and sandstone cobbles. Above this was a layer of dark sandy material surfaced with stone rubble. Brick, sand and rubble lay half the depth of the exposed section. A similar sequence of deposits was observed on the eastern extremity of the site sloping downwards to West Street beneath the surface of the short alley linking the two streets.

If anyone can offer help or facilities to preserve the leather pieces I should like to hear from them.

David Williams

RECENT PUBLICATION

“The Archaeology of Addington” by Lilian Thornhill. Published by North Downs Press. (1985) pp.33.

This informative booklet could be used as a brief introduction to archaeology. Examples and illustrations are taken from casual finds and excavations in the Addington area. The publication should be of particular interest to those living in the vicinity of Addington. The author was President of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society in the 1970's and is a well-known archaeologist and local historian.

The book is available from bookshops in the Croydon area or by post from C.N.H. & S.S., 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon CR2 6AD. Price £1.30, including postage and packing.

Adult Education Courses

A short list of classes, which start in early 1986, on archaeology and related subjects.

Camberley. “Historic Houses and Their Families”. Tutor: William Forrester. Afternoon class starting Monday, 6th January. (Surrey Heath AEI class).

Caterham. “Trace Your Family History”. Evening class, Tuesday 7th January. (Tandridge AEI).

Epsom. “Exploring Surrey Churches”. Frank Dobson. Evening class, Tuesday 7th January. (Epsom & Ewell AEI).

Staines. “Archaeology of our Industrial Past”. Bryan Woodriff. Evening class, Thursday 16th January. (Spelthorne AEI).

Woking. “Tracing Your Ancestors”. W. J. Fenton. Evening class, Monday, 6th January. (Woking AEI).

“Heraldry”. David Mercer. Evening class, Thursday 9th January. (Woking WEA).

“Garden History”. Eila Lawton. Evening class, Thursday 13th February. (Woking WEA).

MEETINGS

DECEMBER

Wednesday 11th, 7.45 p.m.

SOME ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN ISRAEL. Talk by Jim Davidson to Croydon NHSS at East Croydon UR Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Thursday 19th, 7.45 p.m.

FARNHAM WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS. Talk by Mrs. Peggy Perks to Farnham & District M.S. at UR Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

JANUARY

Friday 10th, 8.00 p.m.

THE SHEEN, CHARTERHOUSE. Talk by John Cloake to Richmond AS at the Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

Tuesday 14th, 8.00 p.m.

HISTORY OF LONDON'S WATER SUPPLY. Talk by Ivan Fear to Egham-by-Runnymede HS at the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham.

Wednesday 15th, 7.45 p.m.

CROYDON AT THE TIME OF DOMESDAY. Talks by Lilian Thornhill and Muriel Shaw. First of four evening lectures arranged to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the Domesday survey. Croydon NHSS. East Croydon UR Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Thursday 16th, 7.45 p.m.

STONES FOR STATUS — SOME BUILDING STONES OF SOUTHERN BRITAIN. Talk by Frank Dimes to Croydon NHSS. Venue as above.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 11th, 8.00 p.m.

THE RUNNYMEDE DIG. Talk by Stuart Needham to Egham-by-Runnymede HS at the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham.

EARLY NOTICE

Saturday 15th March, 1986. 11.00–5.30

COUNCIL FOR KENTISH ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE at Kent Hall, Corn Exchange, Earl Street, Maidstone.

Morning session – three talks on “Conserving the Past”.

Afternoon session – four talks on “Archaeological Excavations and Research”.

Tickets price £1.50 available from C.K.A., 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent. (Please enclose stamped, addressed envelope).

Bulletin Issues in 1986

Bulletins are planned for early 1986 to cover February and March. Copy for the February issue must be with the Editor by Saturday, 4th January. Material for the March Bulletin will be needed by Saturday, 1st February. The schedule for Bulletin issues to cover the rest of the year will be published early in 1986.