



SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX
Guildford 32454

Bulletin

Number 270

November 1992

COUNCIL NEWS

Annual General Meeting — a reminder. The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Old Building at the Royal Grammar School, Upper High Street, Guildford on 22nd November. The meeting will be preceded by guided tours of the Old Building and Abbot's Hospital, commencing at 2.00 pm.

Excavation Insurance

Mr Webber has handed over the responsibility for the Society's Excavation Insurance to Mr Brian Moore to whom requests and queries should now be directed. Mr Moore can be contacted at Moore Financial Services Ltd, "Hurdles", Priorsfield Road, Godalming, GU7 2RQ. Telephone: 0483 810334 — Fax 0483 810967. (An answering machine is used on occasion). Secretaries of Committees — Visits, Young Archaeologists etc. who can forecast the dates of their visits or meetings where insurance is specially needed, as well as directors of excavations, fieldwalking or surveys should contact Mr Moore as soon as possible with details. Please remember that insurance cover is important for Society sponsored events and that it is the responsibility of the organiser or organisers to see that cover is arranged. If there is any doubt, please double check with Mr Moore.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mrs D M Evans, 46 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, GU1 2PY

Mrs S M Hamilton, 85 Bushy Hill Drive, Merrow, Guildford, GU1 2UG

Miss E Rowland, 14 Crowhurst Lane End, Tandridge, Oxted, RH8 9NT

Mrs D M Swayne, Pipers Barn, Chinthurst Lane, Shalford, Guildford, GU4 8JS

The Reverend and Mrs B Taylor, The Rectory, The Flower Walk, Guildford, GU2 5EP

SURREY HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDIES

Steve Dyer

Hindhead Commons

Detailed notes on this survey have appeared in *Bulletins* 267 and 268. No further fieldwork has taken place during the intervening period although some progress has been made with documentary research; this is beginning to shed some light on areas of surveyed earthworks, particularly the site of Highcombe Farm on the west of the Smallbrook Valley, which went out of occupation in the 1940's. A number of old photographs of this property have helped to explain the complex earthworks and surviving walling surveyed on the ground.

Fieldwork should recommence on this project in early November, an informal evening is being planned for late October to give an update of the results so far.

Information on this and future projects can be obtained from Steve Dyer 081-541-8091 (office) or 081-890-0305 (evenings).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Fieldwork Programme for Autumn/Winter 1992/3

Modern farming techniques mean that fields are harvested, ploughed and sown within a few days. If seed is sown in warm soil the crop may germinate and grow within three weeks. Gone are the days when the soil was left open to weather over the winter months and gone also is much of the time when ploughed land is available for field walking.

This winter it seems likely that several projects in the western part of the County will be looking for people willing to turn out for walking ploughed land and landscape survey. These include the Mole Valley project, Helen Davies' work in Guildford Park, work at Hindhead in advance of re-routing the A3 and around the Society's moated site at South Park, Haslemere.

Uncertainties with weather, ploughing time and crop state make it difficult to notify possible volunteers through the Bulletin. If there is anyone out there who would like to be involved in these projects please get in touch and we will let you know when places and dates are known.

Júdie English — Guildford (0483) 276724 (evenings)

Steve Dyer — 081-541-8091 (daytime)

Annual Symposium

The Annual Symposium of the Archaeological Research Committee has been arranged for Saturday 20th February 1993 at the Christian Community Centre, Dorking. The morning session will see a range of talks of recent work in the county, including an aspect of Industrial Archaeology and the work carried out by the Surrey Historic Gardens Trust.

In the afternoon, the theme will concentrate on documents and archaeology looking at how various studies on documents can support, or not, the evidence recovered through excavation and field survey.

As usual a major part of the day will be the opportunity to meet like-minded people and see a range of displays.

Anyone wishing to display aspects of their recent work, on any related topic, would be most welcome. All displays may be entered for the Margary Award, with the chance to win a cash prize of £100 or £50. For further information contact Steve Dyer 081-541-8091 (day) or 081-890-0305 (evening).

VISITS COMMITTEE

VISIT TO LINCOLN 10th – 17th July 1993

The Visits Committee have planned for a group visit to Lincoln in 1993. We have booked 30 places at the Grand Hotel — The East Midlands Tourist Board Hotel of the Year — which is in the city centre. All the bedrooms have private facilities. The dates

are from Saturday, 10th July to Saturday 17th July. We will travel there by car or by public transport, probably stopping at Flag Fen on route.

Of course, some time will be spent exploring the historic city. By coach we hope to cross the Humber to Beverley. Other coach journeys will include Wainfleet, Tattershall Castle, Biston on market day, Gainsborough Old Hall, Grantham and some historic houses such as Belton House (NT). We will follow such people as the Romans, the Saxons, the Danish Vikings, the beginning of the Pilgrim Fathers' voyages and those of Joseph Banks.

As we complete the arrangements, we will give further details in subsequent Bulletins. However, we would like to know how many members are interested. If you are contemplating coming with us, would you kindly tell me (Te; 0483-505502) or Mrs Jean West (Tel; 081-393-8970). Firm bookings can follow when you have full details.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF FARMSTEADS

This is a new project which will begin this autumn. Based in York, this survey will concentrate on five contrasting areas of England, which will be selected after consultation with other interested bodies to illustrate important contrasts of topography, agricultural systems and economic character. Farmsteads are under threat from a variety of pressures. Mechanisation has made many buildings redundant, as has amalgamation of small farms into larger units, while pressures to convert redundant farm buildings to new uses is often detrimental to the historic integrity of the farm complex. The aim of the survey, to be carried out by the RCHM(E), is to raise awareness of how buildings reveal the development of agriculture.

The Commission is aware that much valuable work into this subject has already been accomplished and is keen to hear from anyone researching agriculture or involved in farm buildings. Knowledge of existing work will have a strong influence on the selection of the five areas for detailed study. Further information from Colum Giles, RCHME, Shelley House, Acomb Road, York, YO2 4HB (0904 784411). (Local History News, Aug 1992.)

CBA GROUP SOUTH-EAST: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING AND LECTURE

A Special General Meeting of the South-East Regional Group of the Council for British Archaeology will be held on Friday 27th November, 1992, at 8 pm. It will be held at the Constitutional Hall, 18 Warwick Road, Redhill, Surrey (250 yards from Redhill Station).

The short formal meeting will be followed by a talk by Brian Philp, FSA, Director of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit on the subject

TODAY'S SCENE IN ARCHAEOLOGY — AMATEURS, PROFESSIONALS AND OTHERS

Tea or coffee will be available from 7.30 and VISITORS ARE WELCOME. Brian Philp's talk on a theme of vital interest promises to be a stimulating one.

NOTES

16, Tunsgate, Guildford

Mary Alexander

No doubt many members of the SAS have day-dreamed about finding something of archaeological significance — a flint arrowhead or a previously unknown round barrow, for example — but on 21st May 1991 John Boas found an assemblage of pottery and glass which is of international importance. He had been doing voluntary work for Guildford Museum and was also keeping an eye on building work in the town. This has been invaluable, as the building work which is actually carried on is often rather different from that for which planning permission was given, for various reasons. Often the work is on a small scale and could not be covered by the County Archaeological Unit, but may nevertheless reveal important clues about the history of the town.



Some of the reconstructed ceramics and glass from 16, Tunsgate, Guildford.

In the case of 16, Tunsgate, the vigilance of one amateur archaeologist has led to a period of about 50 years being brought to prominence, illuminating the social, domestic and economic life of Guildford, Surrey and Europe, by finding an unique collection of objects dating mainly to 1660-1700. There are still some archaeologists who fail to see the importance of post-medieval archaeology, but this one pit group has given us information about the types and quality of pottery and glass available in Guildford at that time that we could not have got from any other source. This in turn, for example, tells us about the status of the household — in this case, an inn — and leads us into a network of international trade from China, Italy, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

On 21st May the builders at 16, Tunsgate were told to remove a concrete floor which was found to be too thin. John Boas watched the work and found sherds of pottery. The concrete was covering a 4-sided pit cut into the chalk, which was crammed with sherds. The builders allowed a short time to empty the pit, so anyone who was available in the Museum building lent a hand. John dug out the pit while the others sieved the spoil for the fragments of pottery, glass and bone which were revealed.

There was no time to section the pit, but it was obvious that there was no significant stratigraphy — everything had been thrown out at one time.

The Museum was again fortunate in having another volunteer, Kevin Fryer, on hand, who began washing and sorting the finds. It soon became clear that most of the vessels could be reconstructed and Kevin developed great skill and ingenuity in doing this. He has now reconstructed hundreds of vessels: most of the sherds from the pit have been made up into complete or almost complete ceramics or glassware. Not only was it all thrown away together, it was thrown away complete, for reasons which are not yet clear. The objects were almost certainly from the Tun Inn in the High Street, opposite the Guildhall. The inn gave its name to Tunsgate, originally a passage running from the inn yard to the south town ditch. The inn was demolished in 1818 to build the Cornmarket which still stands there.

The glasses and ceramics are from the golden age of English production: the pottery shows the last flowering of local industries before they were overwhelmed by the mass-producing Staffordshire potteries. Form, proportion and workmanship combine in the glasses to produce an elegant and simple beauty, and all the vessels have a freshness and vigour deriving from the mingling of artistry with the beginnings of scientific experiment into the processes involved.

The quality of the artefacts is illustrated by a teapot in mouse stoneware and a white salt-glazed lipped jug, which are on display at the definitive exhibition of the work of John Dwight, “the master potter of Fulham”, at Jonathan Horne’s antique shop, in conjunction with the Museum of London.

The group also contains the largest assemblage of Surrey-Hants borderware from an excavation, apart from a kiln site, with many rare and unique forms, which will complement admirably the forthcoming typology of border wares found in London. There is a very interesting collection of Anglo-Netherlandish tin-glazed ware of c. 1625-1700 — plates, dishes, tea-bowls, porringers and chamber pots; Chinese porcelain and a single, highly significant Staffordshire slipware mug.

There are English and French wine bottles, and a range of pharmaceutical bottles dating from 1600-1700. There is an unique collection of mould-blown glass beakers — the largest ever found in one excavation — matching the designs which John Greene ordered from Venice c. 1670. There is unique Venetian lattimo glass and some very early English opaque white glass with lead. c. 1700, sealed wine glasses of exceptional rarity and fine English lead crystal glasses.

Although the majority of objects are ceramics and glass there is also an interesting range of 106 clay pipes which can be easily dated, including 8 with relief marks of two local Guildford makers, and a large selection of animal bones which will give us an insight into the type and quantity of food eaten in an inn.

As an assemblage of excavated and reconstructed 17th century ceramics and glass, David Gaimster of the British Museum considers it of national importance, and Ivor Noel Hume, one of the world’s leading authorities in this field has said “there is none better anywhere”.

A large part of the assemblage is on display in Guildford Museum and members are welcome to see it, and to contribute to the costs of writing up this exceptional site.

MISCELLANY

Query: Aleck McGillivray

Dennis Turner

Mr Amos J Wright, Chairman, Archives, of the Alabama Archaeological Society (2602 Green Mountain Road, Huntsville, Alabama 35803, USA) is seeking information

about Alexander (Aleck) McGillivray, Jnr, son of Alexander McGillivray, famous Creek Indian chief of c 1780-90 (died 1793). Aleck travelled to Bannif, near Aberdeen, to be educated, contracted TB in 1804 and was sent to a Dr Wells in London. Dr Wells packed the patient off to 'the Surrey Hills' in the hope that the air would cure him. It is thought that Aleck died soon after somewhere in Surrey and the date and place of death and burial are sought. Any information that could help Mr Wright in his search would certainly be appreciated.

The Evaluation and Scheduling of the Globe Theatre Site

A controversial article on this subject written by historian Martin Clout has appeared in the *London Archaeologist* (6/15, Summer 1992). A number of accusations are made in the article and many people were criticised. It can be assumed that the accusations will not be left unanswered. (cf Simon Blatherwick and Andrew Gurr, Shakespeare's Factory: the archaeological evaluations on the site of the Globe Theatre at 1/15 Anchor Terrace, Southwark Bridge Road, Antiquity 66/251 (June 1992), 315-33.)

EXHIBITIONS AND LECTURES

1st October – 18th December 1992". John Dwight 'The Master Potter of Fulham' 1672-1703 and his contemporaries". This exhibition will contain material excavated from the site of the Fulham Pottery and will be supplemented by loans from other museums and private sources. To be held at 66c Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BY, Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 5.30 pm. Admission free.

November 3rd – January 20th 1993. "Sir William Waller and the Civil War in the Farnham area". Exhibition at Farnham Museum, Willmer House, West Street. Open Tues – Sat. 10.00 am – 5.00 pm.

14th November. West Surrey Family History Society "Open Day" at the Lord Pirbright's Memorial Hall, Pirbright Village Green. Research material will include indexed transcriptions of many Surrey Parish Registers, the 1891 Census for Western Surrey and many other publications from the Society's Library. Admission free. Refreshments available.

CONFERENCES : DAYSCHOOLS : COURSES

2nd November. In situ or in Showcase; Future Policies for the Conservation of Industrial Artefacts. A course at the Science Museum.

21st November. Gothic Tiles: Medieval and Modern. A seminar at the British Museum.

24th November. Archaeology and Industrial Building: Purposes and Techniques. A course at Ironbridge.

Details of these courses from the Ironbridge Museum, Ironbridge Gorge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW. Tel: 0952-432751.

MEETINGS

2nd November

"The Bridges of London". A talk by Mr J J Chinn to the Mayford and Woking District History Society in the Mayford Village Hall at 8.00 pm.

3rd November

“Stately Pleasure Domes” — the story of banqueting houses and their evolution into garden pavilions. A lecture organised by the National Art Collections Fund, to be held at the Guildhall, Guildford, commencing 10.00 am. Tickets £10.50 in advance from Mrs Holland Bosworth, Mitchel Hall, Shackleford, Godalming, Surrey GU8 6BH.

3rd November

“Domestic Buildings Research Group of Surrey”. A lecture by Joan Harding to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at the Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road. 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

4th November

“Anne of Cleves in Surrey”. A talk by Mary Saaler to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8.00 pm.

5th November

“Rome in Slides”. A lecture by Mr John Chapman to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group in the Methodist Church, off Thames Street Car Park, Staines at 8.00 pm.

7th November

Surrey Local History Council Annual Symposium. “Crime and Punishment”. To be held in Lecture Theatre D at the University of Surrey, commencing 10.30 am. Tickets: SAS members £8.00 available in advance from Guildford Institute; visitors and all tickets sold at the door £10.00.

7th November

“Docklands — Past and Present”. A talk by John Aspinal, Librarian of the Museum in the Docklands Project to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3.00 pm.

9th November

“Guildford Castle and Royal Palace Excavations”. A lecture by Rob Poulton and Mary Alexander on the results of the first three seasons of archaeological excavations, organised jointly by Guildford Museum and the SAS. To be held in the Guildhall, Guildford by kind permission of the Mayor at 8.00 pm.

10th November

“Stately Pleasure Domes” — Part 2 of this study. Details as for 3rd November.

12th November

“Public Monuments and Sculpture”. A talk by Jo Darke, Chair of the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association to the Clapham Antiquarian Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham at 8.00 pm.

13th November

“Neanderthals and Modern Humans”. A talk by Dr Jill Cooke of the British Museum to the Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8.00 pm.

14th November

Council for Kentish Archaeology Half-Day Conference. Canterbury. “Burials of the Past”.

16th November

“The Tun Inn Time Capsule — Evidence of Inn Life in the reign of Queen Anne as revealed by the recent excavation at 16 Tunsgate, Guildford”. A lecture by Kevin Fryer organised jointly by Guildford Museum and the SAS in the Guildhall, Guildford by kind permission of the Mayor at 8.00 pm.

17th November

“Mothers, Wives and Crusaders”. A lecture by Prof Riley-Smith for the Historical Association West Surrey Branch at 7.30 pm at the Friends’ Meeting House, North Street, Guildford.

18th November

"Esher Commons, Oxshott Heath." A talk by David Page, the Commons Ranger, to the Esher District LHS at the Methodist Hall, Cedar Road, Cobham at 7.30 pm.

19th November

"Hampton Court Palace after the Fire". A talk by Mr Michael Rishlock to the Barnes and Mortlake LHS in the Main Hall at the Sheen Lane Centre at 8.00 pm.

20th November

"Joseph Payne". A talk by Richard Aldrich on this much neglected former resident of Leatherhead to the Leatherhead and District LHS in the Dixon Hall, Leatherhead Institute, 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

20th November

"Haslemere Archaeology". A talk by Steve Dyer to the Haslemere Archaeology and Local History Group at Haslemere Museum at 7.30 pm.

21st November

"The History of Ashley Park". A talk by Mr M E Blackman to the Walton and Weybridge LHS in the Elmgrove Meeting Room, Walton upon Thames at 3.00 pm.

22nd November

SAS Annual General Meeting in the Old Building, Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

24th November

"Beauty Overhead" — the story of English plasterwork from 1500 to the early 19th century, organised by the National Art Collections Fund. Details as 3rd November.

26th November

"Pagan Customs". A talk by Leslie Grout to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute at 8.00 pm.

28th November

"The House in the Social Context" — The Annual Lecture of the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) to be given by David Martin who is carrying out an ongoing survey of historic buildings (1300-1750) in Eastern Sussex. To be held at the Oxshott Village Centre, Holtwood Road, Oxshott. 2.00-2.30 pm. Entrance 50p (inc. tea) SAS members and friends are very welcome.

1st December

"The proper study" — the development of the English Library from medieval to modern times, organised by the National Art Collections Fund. Details as 3rd November.

1st December

Historical Association West Surrey Branch Annual Cheese and Wine Party at the Guildhall, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Guest speaker: Dr Percy Edwards "Bookham".

5th December

"Early medieval manor-houses in south-east England". A talk by Jayne Semple to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3.00 pm.

ADVANCE NOTICES

1993**20th February**

SAS Annual Symposium organised by the Archaeological Research Committee in the Dorking Christian Centre.

Editor: Audrey Monk, Bryony bank, Beech Hill, Hambledon, Nr Godalming, GU8 4HL.

Next Issue: Copy to the Editor required by 26th October for the December/January issue.