

feature at this point. The position does, however, coincide with the 100' contour on the current 6" to 1ml. map.

(E. N. Montague).

Reigate: Discovery of human bones (TQ 25154906).

Workmen, excavating a new inspection pit in the churchyard of St. Luke's Church, Church Road, Reigate, unearthed a collection of human bones. The bones appeared to belong to a teenage individual and were pronounced by the Police pathologist as being several hundred years old. However, as both skull and leg-bone fragments were recovered from a hole some four feet square and as there were many bones missing which one could expect to find preserved while there was no sign that the burial pit extended beyond the limits of the workmen's excavation, the burial was distinctly odd. The bones were found about two feet below the surface at the extreme N.W. corner of St. Luke's churchyard which is not, it should be pointed out, a recognised or consecrated burial ground.

Mr. A. Pepys Squire, a member of this Society and editor of St. Luke's *Parish Magazine*, has discovered what seems to be a valid explanation. Mrs. Lylie Bromley, of Doversgreen, was reminded by the reporting of the discovery in the *Surrey Mirror* of a story told her many years ago by her father, Mr. Comber. Mr. Comber, who died at the age of 92 in 1962, had worked at Reigate Priory as a gardener for over fifty years. At about the turn of the century, he had said, some human bones had been dug up in the Monk's Walk at the Priory and these had been taken in the dead of night to St. Luke's for reburial. The nature of the recently discovered bones accord well with their being those buried by Mr. Comber.

(D. J. Turner).

MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 21st. 10.00 a.m.

S.A.S. WALK: TITSEY TO CHEVENING

Led by MR. R. H. G. LEVESON-GOWER and MRS. R. CHILES

A walk from Titsey to Chevening including Titsey and Chevening churches. Distance approximately 12 miles but those not wishing to walk the whole distance can make most of the return journey by bus.

Start 10.00 a.m. Parking for cars in the stable yard at Titsey Place. Green Line coaches from Victoria via Streatham and West Croydon pass Titsey Church. Details of times and of connecting buses from Reigate and Oxted and also of lunch and tea facilities will be given in September *Bulletin*.

Tickets: members 3/-. visitors 4/-. from Miss C. Smith, Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming.

OCTOBER

Saturday, 5th. 10.45 a.m.

CONFERENCE ON 'THE WEALD'

Group 11 (Kent, Surrey and Sussex) of the Council for British Archaeology will hold a one-day conference on 'The Weald' at the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells. Illustrated talks by specialists will be given on the Geology, Prehistory, Iron Industry, Saxon and Domesday Settlement, Norman and Medieval Settlement, and Industrial Archaeology of the Weald, and on the recent established Open Air Museum for the Weald and Downland.

It is regretted that all tickets for this conference are now sold.

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BULLETIN

August, 1968

Edited by Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Turner, 21 Evesham Road, Reigate.

S.A.S. MEETING

September 21st: Walk from Titsey to Chevening and back.

Details of this and other meetings are given elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

EXCAVATION NOTICES

BADSHOT LEA: SITE OF MOATED MANOR HOUSE (N.G.A.: SU 863486)

Excavation of this site has now had to terminate. Mr. Dormer wishes to thank all who have taken part for their support.

OATLANDS PALACE (N.G.R.: TQ 079652)

Excavation of this site (see *Bulletin* No. 42, June) will continue in August. Volunteers will be welcome.

Enquiries to Weybridge Museum, Church Street, Weybridge. (Weybridge 43573).

NOTES

Open Air Museum for the Weald and Downland

During the last eight months the proposal for a Weald and Downland Open Air Museum has made great progress. An excellent site has been offered by the Edward James Foundation at West Dean, midway between Chichester and Midhurst, and, of great immediate importance, storage facilities for buildings threatened with demolition. Although the siting and lay-out are still in early stages of planning, it has been possible to preserve the timber frames of four buildings dismantled since last November. Two of these are medieval houses from the site of the new reservoir at Bough Beech in south-west Kent. Another is a remarkable, three-storied, jettied medieval shop from Horsham and the fourth is a small, early nineteenth century, weather-boarded toll-cottage from Upper Beeding. Before dismantling, these were carefully drawn and each timber tagged so that, when funds are available for re-erection, this will be much simplified. This work of recording has been undertaken entirely by members of the Wealden Buildings Study Group, the secretary of which is Mrs. Hallam of *Amberfold*, Heyshott, nr. Midhurst, W. Sussex. The membership of this Group is drawn from all the counties involved. At the present time the buildings have come from Kent or West Sussex: nothing at present from Surrey, though some concern has been shown

over the sixteenth century jettied building at Ewell (*Bulletin* No. 40, April, 1968) and a two-bay medieval hall (Slough Farm) at Headley (*Bulletin* No. 43, July), both shortly to be destroyed.

It is hoped to launch an appeal for funds in the autumn in order to commence re-erection. Meanwhile the storage of worthwhile buildings is a service that can be rendered immediately if the buildings are of sufficient quality and interest to justify this. It is, however, desirable to check any spreading of the idea that the Museum can take any building which is in the way and thus salve the conscience of developers, whether local authorities or private companies. The Committee insists that no building will be accepted unless there is no possibility of preservation *in situ* or of re-erection near its existing site. Five other buildings are now under consideration — three in Kent, one in East Sussex and one in West Sussex. It seems likely that the destruction of buildings of unique interest will continue in the years ahead and it would greatly help the Museum Committee if it could be notified well in advance of any threat. It was, for example, a great blow when the little building at Newdigate, described by Pevsner in *The Buildings of England: Surrey* as 'typical of what the fourteenth or fifteenth century villagers actually lived in', had been replaced by a new bungalow within the last eighteen months. Buildings such as this would be of exceptional interest from the Museum point of view. It is the unspectacular, the small cottage of the past, that will be the most difficult to authenticate although they may still exist hidden behind later improvements and additions.

Commencement of work on the Museum must depend entirely on the success of the appeal. So, also, will the date on which it may be open to the public.

(J. R. Armstrong).

Post-Medieval Ceramics: Reference collection.

The Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology is setting up a National Reference Collection for Post Medieval Ceramics to be housed at the City Museum and Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, and has issued the following notes about the collection.

1. The collection will be comprised essentially of sherds but could include whole pots where available. The ceramic material will be divided into three sections, access to which will be by means of a cross referenced card index.

(a) A representative collection of pottery from closely and soundly dated deposits to form a permanent reference framework for the dating of post-medieval pottery.

(b) A representative collection of material from every known kiln or group of kilns.

(c) A collection of sherds built upon a geographical basis illustrating in a fully representative way regional variations and conformities.

The sherds will be housed in easily accessible, well indexed, storage.

2. A reference library for the use of students containing volumes pertinent to the study of post-medieval pottery will be housed in the City Reference Library adjacent to the Museum. Printed material, including indexed offprints dealing specifically with the reference collection, will be housed with the ceramic collection. A select bibliography of articles and books of general interest and relevance to the study of post-medieval ceramics will be available.

3. A slide collection of ceramics and kiln excavations will be built up and ultimately, when duplicates are available, these slides may be borrowed for a small fee.

4. Where available plans and drawings or relevant excavations will be housed in the Museum. These will be treated as archives and will not be available for loan.

5. The full facilities of the collection will be freely available to all *bona fide* students who wish to use them.

6. Details of accessions to the collection will be published each year in the *Journal for Post-Medieval Archaeology*.

The following notes for prospective donors of material have also been issued.

1. The type of material that the collection will contain can come from any type of post-medieval site, as long as that site can be soundly dated. The sherds should be chosen by the director of the excavation to be as representative as possible and should include, where available, rim forms, handle seatings, handles and body sherds. The range of fabrics and surface finishes should also be included.

2. At this stage it is not possible to pay for the cost of slides and it is hoped that these will be donated by the directors of the various excavations. It is hoped also that directors will waive their copyright on slides so that they may be duplicated for the planned loan service. Whenever possible prints of plans, drawings and photographs of the excavation should be lodged with the collection and the Museum is willing to accept excavation report archives if no more suitable place can be found for them.

All enquiries regarding the deposit of material at the Stoke Museum should be addressed in the first instance to:

A. R. Mountford, Esq., F.M.A.,
The Director,
City Museum and Art Gallery,
Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

The donor will then be provided with standard record cards for tabulation of site details. The amount of material to be deposited should be arranged with the Museum officials who will also provide details of the standard markings for deposited slides and sherds.

3. Directors of excavations are encouraged to participate in the scheme, which will ultimately form a splendid research tool for students of ceramics and directors of post-medieval excavations.

Local Society List.

It is proposed to bring up to date and to re-issue the *List of Surrey Local History Organisations* (*Bulletin* No. 36, December, 1967). All new organisations concerned with local history or archaeology in Surrey, and any such organisation which has changed its secretary or other vital component during the last year, is asked to send a postcard to L.H.O., Central Library, Caterham, CR3 6JG, bearing the name of the Society, the address and telephone number of its secretary, its subscription rates, its main interests and its publications.

(J. C. Batley).

Mitcham: Possible unrecorded round barrow (TQ 29106765).

At this spot a 'Maiden Hill' is shown on William Marr's map of Mitcham Common, dated 1685, a copy of which is in Croydon Reference Library. In the same position a 'Round Hill' is shown on a plan of Mitcham Common prepared in 1812 for Commissioners appointed for the enclosing of commonland in the manors of Beddington and Bandon. This map is also at Croydon.

There was extensive gravel digging on Mitcham Common throughout the 19th century and no trace remains of the hill on the ground. A 1:10,560 air photograph taken by the R.A.F. in May 1948 (copy in the Mitcham Public Reference Library) does not show with any certainty a