

SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

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BULLETIN

November, 1969

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

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ALAN GILBERT

*It is with deep personal regret that we record the sudden death of our Secretary on Sunday, 28th September. We would extend our sincere sympathies to Mrs. Gilbert and her daughter.*

*Many of us have lost an honoured friend. The Society has lost a valuable and valued officer. Practically the whole of Alan Gilbert's hard won spare time during his last years was devoted to archaeology and divided between the affairs of this Society and the direction of excavations on behalf of the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. Neither Society will find the gap he leaves easy to fill.*

EXCAVATION NOTICES

LOWER KINGSWOOD: PALAEOLITHIC SITE  
(TQ 243537)

Directors: MR. F. PEMBERTON and MRS. V. ETLINGER

Excavation will continue on this site every weekend throughout the winter. Work will start at 10 a.m.

It is hoped to trace a known Acheulian working floor and investigate the prehistoric activity in an area surrounding a dry coombe before the area is used as a refuse tip.

Enquiries to Mr. S. Nelson, 20 Rose Bushes, Epsom Downs, (Tel.: Burgh Heath 50744).

THE OLD VICARAGE, VICARAGE ROAD, EGHAM  
(TQ 01767116)

Director: MRS. M. RENDELL

The Egham Historical Society are excavating this moated homestead site every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginners welcome.

Enquiries to Egham Museum, Literary Institute, Egham, or telephone Chertsey 4779.

CHIPSTEAD: ROMANO-BRITISH SITE

Director: DR. G. P. MOSS

Excavations are being carried out at one of the R-B sites at Chipstead which are threatened by the proposed construction of the M 23. Trial trenches were opened in October and work will probably continue into November. Weekends only.

Enquiries to Dr. Moss, 35 Brooklands Way, Redhill.  
(Telephone: Redhill 65508).

## NETHERNE LANE, COUSDON

(TQ 295558)

Work is continuing throughout the winter. Details as given in June *Bulletin*. Enquiries to Mr. R. Thorne, 43 Fairdene Road, Coulsdon, CR3 1RD. (Tel.: Downland 55332).

### NOTES

#### **Recording older Surrey cottages.**

A group is studying and helping to record some of the older farm-houses and cottages of Surrey. Helpers are needed before destruction or renovation removes all trace of the original houses. If you are interested, please send your name and address, and s.a.e., to Miss Joan M. Harding, 57 The Green, Ewell. Details will be sent to you about the next meeting.

(Joan M. Harding).

#### **Southwark : Excavations at London Bridge and Montague Close.**

Excavation on these two sites on behalf of the Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee and the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society took place for six weeks from the middle of July to the end of August.

##### *Montague Close*

One trench, approximately 20' x 8' was cut here but unfortunately the area available was reduced by electric mains and a drain pipe.

Immediately under the modern roadway was found a deep mixed layer of 17th and 18th century date. Lying in this layer was a curved 18th century brick drain. These layers contained a massive amount of delft kiln waste material which, at the west end, filled a semi basement. Against the only surviving wall of this was piled a pure dump of kiln waste which must have come straight from the kiln. This semi basement had a stone floor, beneath which were two floors, the lower with two steps going down to it. There was abundant evidence of burning in these two lower features. They would all seem to belong to the late 17th or early 18th century and are very probably parts of a rectangular delft kiln. In the middle of the trench, but at a much higher level, was another stone floor associated with a reduced wall running north from the Cathedral. This floor would appear to be 17th century and had a considerable make-up of the same date below it.

The only medieval features found were the wall mentioned above, which ran north from the Sacristy to the Priory. This was of massive proportions and late 12th century in date. The only other medieval feature was a late medieval grave with an articulated skeleton and another disturbed skeleton in its upper fill. This grave was cut through gravel which was found to be 5' 3" deep and had eight or nine surfaces in it, of which one produced a sherd of Roman pottery. This is clearly a Roman road resurfaced a number of times and the camber was clearly visible in these surfaces. On top of this road there was a layer of dirt which also overlaid its edge and filled a post hole cut into the top of the road. All these features are likely to be post Roman. The gravel of the road lies directly on natural clay and so is clearly primary.

### *London Bridge Site*

An area 40' x 40' was available but in this area only a scatter of gravel survived above the top of the natural clay except in one area where small patches of two layers of Roman make-up were found.

As a result, the only features found were those which cut through the natural clay. These consisted of seven pits, one well and two ditches. Two of the pits were square and three round and were of the normal type of rubbish pit. One of the square pits cut into one of the round ones but all five seem to be late 1st or early 2nd century. The well, whose lower part was wood lined, was filled in in the 4th century and was the only certain late feature found on the site. One of the other pits also appears to be early, but of peculiar shape, while the final pit has an amorphous shape and two post holes against one edge, so that it may have been used for some other purpose before it was filled in with rubbish.

Of the two ditches, one was a normal, fairly shallow, drainage ditch running approximately east-west and was definitely a primary feature on the site. In it, and on the natural around it, were extensive traces of burning. At the west end of the site was an 'L' shaped ditch with such an irregular profile that it could hardly be called a ditch, and its function is at present unknown. In parts it was filled in with almost sterile gravel but in other parts it had up to eighteen inches of Roman domestic rubbish filling it, of late 1st — early 2nd century date. The only other feature was a cellar fronting onto the approach to Old London Bridge which originally was built on chalk and later rebuilt in brick.

### *Conclusions*

The most important result of these excavations has been to locate definitely, for the first time, the main road through the Roman suburb of Southwark and, hence, the position of Roman London Bridge. This was one of the aims of the excavation, except that the other site was expected to produce it. The possibility of the Roman Bridge lying to the west of the present London Bridge has previously been ruled out as unlikely. The road is clearly a major road and was probably originally about 30' wide though only 16' of its width fell within the trench. It must therefore be the road leading up to the Bridge.

The positioning of the road will enable us to fit the pieces of information we already have about Roman Southwark into a more coherent framework and may well throw light on post-Roman Southwark. For example, the building with stone walls and tessellated pavements found under the Cathedral in the 19th century is now seen to front on to the road and one at least of the transverse ditches goes right up to the Roman road.

The possible delftware kiln adds a second example of the rectangular type, the first of which was found last year at Lambeth (*Bulletin*) 51, and confirms that this must be the usual type, at least in the 18th century, and that the Lambeth example was not an aberration. This raises doubts about an example from Liverpool which was claimed to be round. The Montague Close kiln also has a characteristic, in the steps down into the firebox, which occurs in descriptions of late 18th century French tin-glaze kilns.

Friday, 28th, 8 p.m.

HADRIAN'S WALL. Talk by MR. K. BREEN to the WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY at Wandsworth Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday, 29th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Symposium on Local History at the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls. MR. A. R. DUFTY, Chairman of the Surrey Local History Council, will be in the chair.

MR. C. C. TAYLOR will talk on THE INHERITED PATTERN OF THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE in the morning and MR. E. HALFPENNY on OLD CHURCH BANDS in the afternoon. Mr. Halfpenny's talk will be illustrated by demonstrations on the instruments.

There will be an exhibition and bookstall and the meeting will be followed by tea, for which tickets must be purchased in advance.

Tickets in advance (members 4/-. visitors 6/-. tea 4/6) from Mr. T. E. C. Walker, *Spring Grove*, Water Lane, Cobham. Tickets at the door 6/-.

## DECEMBER

Tuesday, 2nd, 7 p.m.

FAKES. Talk by MR. J. P. CUSHION to the MORLEY COLLEGE CERAMIC CIRCLE at the Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1.

Thursday, 4th, 8 p.m.

BOURNE HALL EXCAVATIONS, 1962-64. Talk by MR. N. NAIL to the NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY at Pit House, Ewell.

Friday, 5th, 7.45 p.m.

MEDIEVAL FARNHAM HOUSES. Talk by MISS JOAN HARDING to the FARNHAM MUSEUM SOCIETY. As 7th November.

Saturday, 6th, 3 p.m.

ENGLISH CASTLES. Talk by MR. D. F. RENN to the BEDDINGTON, CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. As 1st November.

Tuesday, 9th, 6.45 p.m.

SOME RESULTS OF THE KENNINGTON PALACE EXCAVATIONS. Talk by MR. G. DAWSON to the SOUTHWARK AND LAMBETH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at the Cuming Museum, Newington District Library, Walworth Road, S.E.17.

Friday, 12th, 8 p.m.

WATERMILLS. Talk by MR. C. E. WOODROW to HOLMESDALE N.H.C. at The Museum, Croydon Road, Reigate.

Tuesday, 16th, 7 p.m.

COMPARISON OF DRINKING VESSELS — MUGS, JUGS AND BOTTLES. Talk by MISS D. GRIFFITHS to the MORLEY COLLEGE CERAMIC CIRCLE. As 2nd December.

Wednesday, 17th, 5 p.m.

MEARE LAKE VILLAGE: THE RECENT EXCAVATIONS. Lecture by MR. M. AVERY to the PREHISTORIC SOCIETY at Burlington House.

The London Bridge site produced negative evidence about the site of the Roman London Bridge which is not now of particular importance since the finding of the road. But it produced some evidence about the Roman occupation of this part of Southwark which seems very similar to that found further to the east in 1967 (*Bulletin* 32 and 35). The density of rubbish pits in this area might suggest that some sort of public tipping took place. Clearly after about 150 A.D. a drastic change in the use pattern of the area occurred, but in the absence of the upper layers it is difficult to say precisely what this change was. It is possible that public tipping stopped and the area was developed for housing and the presence of the well would support this. The east-west ditch is another example of this type of feature of which a number of examples have been found on both sides of Southwark, all more or less parallel to each other (and approximately at right angles to the road). Like the rest, it was filled in very early. The other ditch could be a natural feature filled in to make the ground level, or perhaps a quarry pit, though it is difficult to see precisely what was being quarried. The site produced a large sample of mollusca, which will provide a good comparison with the medieval (Kennington Palace) and post-medieval (Guy's Hospital 1967) samples already recovered from Southwark. Some of the deposits seem to be functionally specialised which would also argue against the domesticity of the rubbish dumping. Unfortunately no direct evidence bearing on the date of the first bridge on the site of Old London Bridge was found, though the absence of any feature from the area between the 4th century and 1831 would suggest that the road ran across the site fairly early in this long period.

We acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the following; the landowners, the City of London and Proprietors of Hays Wharf, for facilities provided; to the London Borough of Southwark for releasing the director; and to all volunteers who came to dig and those who have and will come to process the material.

(G. J. Dawson).

## MEETINGS

### NOVEMBER

Saturday, 1st, 3 p.m.

THE CAREWS OF BEDDINGTON. Talk by MR. R. A. MICHELL to the BEDDINGTON, CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at the Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

Saturday, 1st until January.

HIGH LODGE. An exhibition of the BRITISH MUSEUM excavation and the earliest prehistory in East Anglia. British Museum.

Tuesday, 4th, 7 p.m.

CHELSEA. Talk by MISS D. GRIFFITHS to the MORLEY COLLEGE CERAMIC CIRCLE at the Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1.

Thursday, 6th, 8 p.m.

FROM TUDOR RUFF TO REGENCY BUCK. Talk by MISS O. TEMPLE to the NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY at Pit House, Ewell.

Friday, 7th, 7.45 p.m.

THE ARMOURIES AT THE TOWER. Talk by MR. R. DUFTY to the FARNHAM MUSEUM SOCIETY in the Committee room behind the Council Offices in South Street, Farnham.

Saturday, 8th, 6.45 p.m.

SOUTHWARK AND LAMBETH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY A.G.M. Followed by PREHISTORIC BURIALS, a talk by DR. F. CELORIA. Peckham Civic Centre, Canal Bridge Road, Old Kent Road.

Tuesday, 11th, 6.30 p.m.

NORMAN CASTLES IN S.E. ENGLAND. Talk by MR. D. F. RENN to the LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY at Holborn Central Library. 32 Theobalds Street, W.C.1.

Tuesday, 11th, 7.30 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN THE KENLEY DISTRICT. Talk by MRS. M. SAALER and MISS L. KETTERINGHAM to the BOURNE SOCIETY at Warlingham County Secondary School, Tithe Pit Shaw Lane.

Thursday, 13th 8 p.m.

THE CRADLE OF CIVILISATION. Talk to the OXTED AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY by SIR HERBERT TODD at the Oxted County School, Blue House Lane, Oxted.

Friday, 14th, 8 p.m.

CHARACTER IN CHINESE CERAMICS. Talk by MISS M. MEDLEY to the HOLMESDALE N.H.C. at The Museum, Croydon Road, Reigate.

Saturday, 15th, 1.30 - 6 p.m.

FOURTH ANNUAL LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE OF THE LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. In the Livery Hall, Guildhall, E.C.2. Tickets, including tea, 6/-. Enquiries to H. E. Robins, 3 Cameron House, Highland Road. Bromley, Kent.

Tuesday, 18th, 7 p.m.

COMPARISON OF WORCESTER AND CAUGHLEY. Talk by Miss D. GRIFFITHS to the Morley College Ceramic Circle. As 4th November.

Tuesday, 18th, 7.30 p.m.

POSTCARDS AND COLLECTING (with reference to Reigate and Redhill). Talk by MR. R. H. THORNE to the BOURNE SOCIETY at Warlingham County Secondary School, Tithe Pit Shaw Lane.

Thursday, 20th, 7.30 p.m.

FULHAM AND HAMMERSMITH. Talk by MR. P. D. WHITTING to the CLAPHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY at St. Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, S.W.12.

Saturday, 22nd, 3 p.m.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF COASTAL NEW SOUTH WALES: RECENT RESULTS AND THEORIES. Lecture by MR. J. V. S. MEGAW to the PREHISTORIC SOCIETY at the Institute of Archaeology.