

SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD  
**BULLETIN**

Number 119

August 1975

Edited by Rosamond Hanworth, Folly Hill, Ewhurst, Surrey

**SAS VISITS**

September 20th. The Regency and After (1800-1850)

October 4th. Victorian Buildings at Egham.

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

**NOTES AND QUERIES**

**New Members from 1.5.75**

Mrs P. Edwards, Clements, The Grove, Liphook, Hants.

Mr J. W. J. Leslie, 1 South View, Old Lane, Tatsfield, Nr Westerham, Kent

Mr H. A. Jones, BA, Bogleigh, Oak Grange Road, West Clandon

Mr T. White, FADO, Belmont House, Albury Road, Guildford

Mrs A. Peerman, Northcote House, London Road, Blackwater, Hants GU17 0AG

Mrs J. S. Walcot, MBE, Denecroft, Willow Green, North Holmwood RH5 4JB

Albury History Society, Lea Cottage, Albury Heath, Guildford

Miss V. L. Swayne, Green Edge, 3 Woodbine Cottages, Shalford

Mr M. K. Oake, 12 Belmont Road, Reigate RH2 7EE

Mr J. M. Cowley, 49 Mandevill Road, Shepperton, Middx TW17 0AL

Mr W. Hudson, Treetops, 70 Wheelwrights Lane, Grayshott, GU26 6BB

Mr D. A. Higgins, High Bank, Mill Hill Lane, Brockham Green, Betchworth RH3 7LS

Miss K. E. Herron, 42 Greenwood Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0DY

Miss A. Concanen, BEd, 33 Culls Road, Normandy, Guildford

Mr T. Concanen, 33 Culls Road, Normandy, Guildford

Mr F. H. C. Baigent, 32 Chestnut Way, Bramley GU7 0JB

Mr J. C. Lindsay, The Pump House, Lashams Hill, Witley

**SAS Prize in Archaeometry**

The SAS Prize in Archaeometry for 1975 has been awarded to Martin Janes of the Physics Department, University of Surrey. A copy of his project report on "The Effect of Rainfall on Resistivity Surveys of Archaeological Sites on London Clay", which formed part of his work in archaeometry, has been deposited at Castle Arch. This year the prize consisted of a copy of the second edition of "Physics and Archaeology" by Martin Aitken. (A. G. Crocker)

### Saxon Shield boss and two spear heads

Among the archaeological material presented to the Society by the Society of Antiquaries from the collection of the late Captain Lowther, are two Saxon spear heads and a shield boss, which are at present unprovenanced.

The shield boss is of the straight carinated type and the spear heads are of Swanton types, H2 and F2. If anyone has any knowledge of the original find spots of these weapons and whether or not they have been published, the information will be gratefully received by the writer. It is perhaps worth noting that both spear heads have received a certain amount of conservation work.

(D. G. Bird)

### Godstone: Baldwyn's Folly Mine (TQ 347532)

Hearthstone mining is an aspect of Industrial Archaeology that seems to interest speleologists more than archaeologists although Paul Sowan of the Croydon NHSS is preparing a thesis on the industry. Exploration of the mines is not to be undertaken lightly and is best only carried out under the guidance of underground experts. As a result most of the information about recent work in this field is to be found in the Croydon Caving Club's magazine *Pelobates*.

An account of Baldwyn's Folly mine has recently been published by Alan Ockenden in *Pelobates* (26th November, 1974, 3-5, plus two plans). It is thought that this mine was a short-lived venture begun in the late nineteenth century and at one time under the ownership of the Upwood Quarry Co who also owned the adjacent Arch Quarry. The Croydon Caving Club dug their way into the mine in 1968 and carried out a rough survey of part of the mine before the entrance collapsed as a result of rain. The original entrance of the mine, now backfilled, was in the quarry at the NGR stated.

(D. J. Turner)

### Telegraph Stations of the Napoleonic Period\*

During the period 1797-1814, as a temporary expedient in the Napoleonic Wars, a "boarded" or "shutter" telegraph system was set up to provide fast communication between the Admiralty and Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham, Deal, Sheerness, and Yarmouth. This system was dismantled in 1814 and later replaced by the better-known semaphore system represented by permanent buildings such as the tower on Chatley Heath, Cobham, and Semaphore House, Pewley Hill, Guildford.

The boarded telegraph, also referred to as Murray's telegraph after its inventor, used a method of signalling by means of six octagonal shutters held in a rectangular framework and operated by ropes to be vertical (visible) or horizontal (invisible from a distance). An element of a message thus comprised a pattern of visible shutters. The framework was erected on a suitable hill-top with a small building to accommodate an officer and a man. Sleeping accommodation would only be provided where suitable quarters were not obtainable close at hand.

The Murray telegraph line which passed through Surrey was the joint Portsmouth/Plymouth line. Commencing on the roof of the Admiralty, London, stations were erected at Chelsea (Royal Hospital), Putney ("The Highland"), Ashted (Cabbage Hill), Hackhurst Downs, Hascombe (Telegraph Hill), Blackdown, South Harting (Beacon Hill), Portsdown, and thence to Portsmouth (The Glacis); the Plymouth line diverged at Beacon Hill and followed a line to Southampton and thence westwards through Dorset to Devonshire.

Owing to the simple and temporary nature of the telegraph buildings, there are no surviving examples although over 50 were erected altogether to serve the six naval termini named above. However, the sites are shown on the one-inch OS maps of 1811 (but not in Devonshire), and on modern maps the name "Telegraph Hill" sometimes indicates this early system (but as a word of caution it must be noted that the later semaphore stations were frequently called telegraph stations and surviving buildings are sometimes still named "Telegraph House").

The problem of locating the actual remains of buildings has thus become an archaeological one, particularly in areas where dense woodland and undergrowth has obliterated the sites. The site at Cabbage Hill, Ashted, for example, was described in 1938† as being indicated only by a rectangular plot bounded by trees marking the original hedge (the writer has not visited this site). The site on Hackhurst Downs has eluded discovery so far. However, the writer has located what appears to be the site of the Hascombe station in woodland to the east of the hill-fort at TQ 008388. The indications consist of brick, tile, mortar, and roofing-slate debris. Excavation would confirm the site, and determine whether living and sleeping accommodation was provided, and whether indications remain of the shutter framework and mechanism, unlikely though the latter might be.

(R. W. Williams)

\*See H. P. Mead, "Mariners Mirror" Vol 24 (1938)

†"Country Life" Vol 84, 1938 (H. P. Mead)

#### Recent Publications

- Merrifield, R. and Sheldon, H. (1974) Roman London Bridge, a view from both banks. *The London Archaeologist*, II, 8, 183-191.
- Millett, M. (1974) Some Pottery from . . . Neatham. *Farnham and District MS Newsletter* III, 11, 33-35.
- Nevinson, J. L. (1974) Archaeological Society or Limited Company? *The London Archaeologist* II, 8, 198-9.
- Poulter, S. R. C. (1973) Neolithic Find (Polished flint axe in River Mole at TQ 16475538). *Leatherhead & District LHS Proceedings* III, 7, 185.
- Pearmain, K. (1973) Tobacco Clay-Pipe Manufacturers in Croydon (3). *The Corney Family. Croydon NH & SS Newsletter* 26, 2-3.
- Pardoe, B. F. J. (1974) Egham—The King's Head Inn. *Egham-by-Runnymede HS Carta* 7.
- Pemberton, F., Temple, R. and Barfoot, J. (1974) Excavation at St. Mary's Churchyard, Ewell (TQ 2221563044) *Nonsuch AS Newsletter*, 1974/4, 2.
- Pollock, D. R. (1974) A Fawkener Connection (Huguenot families). *Wandsworth HS News Sheet* 117.
- Pardoe, B. F. J. (1975) Sausage-skin Making at Walton, 1874. *Walton & Weybridge LHS Dial Stone* 59, 3.
- Peel, E. 1974. *Cheam School from 1645*. Foreword by the Duke of Edinburgh, xiv plus 330pp. 35 illustrations. The Thornhill Press, 7 Russell Street, Gloucester, £6.50.
- Rudling, D. (1974) Kingswood, 1974. (Negative results of trench watching). *Croydon NH & SS Newsletter* 26, 4.
- Rudling, D. (1974) Recent archaeological finds from Warlingham. *Croydon NH & SS Newsletter*, 27, 2 and *Bourne Society Bulletin* 78, 2-3.

- Sheldon, H. (1974). Excavations at Toppings and Sun Wharves, Southwark, 1970-72. (An extremely important paper for students of Southwark's archaeology). *Trans London and Middlesex Arch Soc* 25. 116pp, 51 figs, 7 plates. No price given.
- Smith, C. J. (1975) John Sirgood. (Research into the foundation of the religious sect known as the Cokelers in SW Surrey and Sussex). *Clapham AS Occasional Sheet* 322, 2.
- Stonebanks, J. A. (1974) Enlightened Weybridge (Nineteenth century electricity undertakings). *Walton & Weybridge LHS Monograph* 19.
- Sowan, P. (1974) Trial Excavations in Gatton Firestone Mines. *Croydon NH & SS Newsletter* 26, 3-4.
- Savage, R. (1974) Addington Excavation 1974, TQ372638. *Croydon NH & SS Newsletter* 27, 2.
- Saaler, Mary (1974) Roman Coin Find at Coulsdon (TQ 305583). *Bourne Society Bulletin* 78, 3.
- Scott, J. G. (1974) A Halfpenny of George II Countermarked by a Farnham Trader. *Farnham & District MS Newsletter* III, 11, 21-22.
- Titford, C. (The late) 1974 Rail Transport. *Nonsuch AS* 1974/3, 6.
- Thompson, Ann E. (1974) Thames Ditton Bronze Foundry—Display at Dorking in 1973. (Catalogue of 56 bronzes). *Esher District LHS Local History News* 184-186.
- Thornhill, Lillian (1974) Autumn Miscellany (Roman road exposed at TQ 415559 and well at 170 Ballards Way). *Croydon NH & SS Newsletter*, 28, 2-3.
- Thornhill, Lillian (1974) Coombé Farm. *Croydon NH & SS Newsletter* 28, 1-2.
- Taylor Smith, D. (1974) Further Notes on the Postal History of Farnham. *Farnham and District MS Newsletter* III, 10, 12-14.
- Turner, D. J. (1974) Death of a Building (The Old Wheel, Reigate). *The London Archaeologist*, II, 8, 192-3.
- Twilley, R. and Wills, M. (ed.) (1974) *The River Wandle*. 44pp, 8 plates and map. London Borough of Sutton Libraries, 30p.
- Whitehouse, K. (1974) Iron Age Putney. (Stratified material recovered from contractors' trench at Barn Elms). *Wandsworth HS News Sheet* 115, 2.

**Leatherhead: Excavation at 2 Upper Fairfield Road (TQ 1650956574)**

Investigation of this site began in February of this year. The Surrey Archaeological Society sponsored fieldwork and further assistance came from several members of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society. The site is presently the back garden of an uninhabited single two-storey weatherboard house of late eighteenth century origins. Future town developments include a roadway designed to cut through the section investigated.

A 3 x 2m area at right angles to the street was examined by excavation. It was hoped that as the site was situated near the town centre and positioned on a well-drained hill, there would be evidence of some earlier settlement.

The topsoil was very fertile and contained numerous artefacts and midden of nineteenth/twentieth century origins, providing an interesting insight into the lifestyles of the previous occupants of the house. Similar material came from the next layer which was akin in composition but more compacted. From it three stake-holes and a small pit, 50cm in diameter (all suggestive of gardening activities), were found to cut into the next lower layer. On the surface of half of this third layer were a sheet of flint pebbles, giving a cobbled appearance to the

site. Within the pebbles two sherds and a small flint blade were located—the only other artefacts found. The two sherds were small and have been tentatively identified by Mrs J. Bird, one medieval and one post-medieval. Only one other sherd of Medieval appearance was located, and this was in unstratified topsoil.

Beneath the pebbled surface lay a thick section of London Clay interspersed with clusters of larger flint pebbles. This matrix was sterile and continued below a depth of 1m, at which point the excavation was discontinued.

The writer extends her thanks to the owner of the site, Mr V. Crabb of Fetcham, for his consent and co-operation.

(Angela Calder)

### Vernacular Architecture Group Conference

The Vernacular Architecture Group, the national body of researchers into domestic architecture, spent their Spring Conference this year from 8th to 11th April in Surrey. Based at the Manor House, Godalming, a Hall of Residence of Guildford University, 80 members of the Group visited 29 houses and farm buildings, showing as far as possible the development of Surrey vernacular architecture. One day was spent in Charlwood at the invitation of the Charlwood Society, a half day north of the Downs at Cobham, Chobham, Wanborough, Effingham and Farnham, and one day in South West and South Surrey at Dunsfold, Chiddingfold, Shere, Capel and Abinger. The visit was arranged by the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey).

(Joan M. Harding)

## LECTURES

### Provisional Programme for Autumn 1975 Course

#### RECENT EXCAVATIONS

Arranged by Surrey Archaeological Society and University of Surrey  
Centre for Adult Education

7.30 p.m. at Surrey University

#### October

- 2 Rosamond Hanworth—Excavations at Brooklands, near Weybridge.
- 9 Hugh Thompson—Anstiebury, Holmbury and Hascombe.
- 16 Joan Harding—The late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site at Weston Wood, Albury.
- 23 Bernard Johnson—Excavations in advance of the construction of the M25 near Thorpe and Egham.
- 30 Marion Smith—Archaeology in Kingston.

#### November

- 6 Lesley Ketteringham—Netherne: the excavation of a thirteenth century Manor
- 13 Kevin Crouch—Roman and Medieval Staines.
- 20 John Hampton—The Roman Tile Works at Ashtead.
- 27 Tim Schadia-Hall—Excavations near Wickham, Hampshire.

#### December

- 4 Dennis Turner—Archaeology in Reigate.

Note: Titles are subject to confirmation.

A visit will arranged if possible.

Further details in due course.

(D. G. Bird)

## EXHIBITIONS

### **Architectural Heritage: The English Country House**

An exhibition of eighteenth and nineteenth century water-colours of country houses, including some in Surrey, will be staged for the benefit of Members of the Society at Queenwood House (OS ref: TQ 013636), Chobham Road (A319), Ottershaw, near Chertsey, on Saturday 18th October. The Exhibition will be open from 2.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Members proposing to visit the exhibition are requested to inform Mr B. F. J. Pardoe, by letter to Queenwood House, by Monday, 13th October. It is regretted that it will not be possible to admit anyone for whom notice has not been given.

If any member has water-colours or other drawings of houses which they would like to exhibit, would they please contact Mr Pardoe (Ottershaw 2784).

### **Mayford History Society**

Mayford History Society is holding an Exhibition on Saturday, 27th September in Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.

## MEETINGS

### **SEPTEMBER**

**Monday 1st, 8 p.m.**

**ROMAN GOLD MINES IN NORTH WEST SPAIN.** Talk by D. G. Bird to Mayford HS in the Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.

**Saturday 20th**

### **SAS VISIT: THE REGENCY AND AFTER (1800-1850)**

Organiser: Mr Bernard Pardoe, MA

10.00 a.m. Meet at Regents Park Tube Station, pavement level, south side of Marylebone Road. View the Nash Terraces and Park Village West. Visit The Holme (Decimus Burton) and possibly Winfield House, home of the United States Ambassador. Coffee will be taken at the cafeteria adjoining Queen Mary's Gardens at 11.15 a.m. approx. Picnic lunch in Regents Park or refreshments in nearby cafes.

1.30 p.m. Depart Camden Town Tube Station, take Bank Line to Old Street, change on to the Highbury Branch to Highbury and Islington Station, arriving 2.30 p.m. approx.

Visit the delightful but relatively unknown squares of Islington under the guidance of Miss Mary Cosh, MA, the well-known architectural historian.

Tea, to be paid for at the time, can be taken at a local Church Hall, but please advise when booking, if required.

Comfortable shoes are recommended as there is a fair amount of walking on this visit.

Tickets (members 20p, visitors 25p, students half price and accompanied children free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0QL.

**Thursday 23rd, 8 p.m.**

**RECORDING SURREY'S OLDER HOUSES.** Talk by Joan Harding to Guildford members of the SAS at the Brew House, Guildford. Visitors welcome.

## OCTOBER

Saturday 4th

### SAS VISIT: VICTORIAN BUILDINGS AT EGHAM

Arranged by Mr D. Booker

10.00 a.m. Meet at Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water on the Egham road, just north of Virginia Water railway station.

12.30 p.m. Englefield Green Church.

Picnic lunch on Englefield Green or pubs nearby.

2.00 p.m. Royal Holloway College, south-west of Egham on the A30.

4.00 p.m. Egham Church and Egham Museum.

No party arrangements for tea have been found possible but there are some small cafes in Egham.

Tickets (members 20p, visitors 25p, students half price and accompanied children free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0QL.

Friday 10th, 8 p.m.

GREAT CASTLES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND. Dallaway Lecture by D. F. Renn to Leatherhead & District LHS at the City of London Freemen's School, Ashted Park, Ashted. This lecture is open to the public and will be illustrated with slides.

Saturday 11th, 10.30 a.m.-5 p.m.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM, Dorking Halls under the title "Change under the Tudors". Full details with Bulletin 120.

Thursday 16th, 7.30 p.m.

CITY OF LONDON EXCAVATIONS. Talk by Hugh Chapman to Clapham Antiquarian Society in St Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, SW12.

Saturday 25th-Sunday 26th

THE MOATED SITES RESEARCH GROUP are holding a two-day meeting at the University of Surrey. Membership of the Group is £1. This is a preliminary notice, and enquiries should be addressed to F. A. Aberg, BA, Leeds University Adult Education Centre, 37 Harrow Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Yorks.

## NOVEMBER

Friday 14th, 8 p.m.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FARMHOUSE AND COTTAGE IN SURREY. Talk by Joan Harding to Leatherhead & District LHS at Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead.

Thursday 20th, 7.30 p.m.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY. Talk by Jim Slade to Clapham Antiquarian Society in St. Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, SW12.

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The next issue of the Bulletin will be in September. Copy is required by 5th August.  
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**British and Foreign Bible Society**  
**A PUBLIC LECTURE**  
at  
**ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, LEATHERHEAD.**  
**Thursday, 9th October, 1975**

**7.45 for 8 p.m.**

In the Chair: **SIR CYRIL BLACK, JP, DL**

**PROFESSOR DONALD J. WISEMAN,**  
**OBE, DLit, FBA, FSA**

(Professor of Assyriology, London University)

will speak on

**"AN ARCHAEOLOGIST LOOKS  
AT HIS BIBLE"**

Dr Wiseman was formerly on the staff of the British Museum and a Director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, of which he is now Chairman. He is also on the Council of the British Academy, and of the British Schools of Archaeology in Ankara and at Jerusalem; and is a member of the BFBS Translations Advisory Group.

A collection will be taken in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

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