

**SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

BULLETIN

Number 123

January 1976

Edited by Nancy Cox, "Karm", 108 Westfield Road,
Mayford, Woking GU22 9QP

SAS VISITS 1976

FEBRUARY

Saturday 14th, 2.30 p.m.

Talk by Mr J. C. Batley at Castle Arch on 'The Art of Ernest Christie'. A number of the latter's paintings owned by the Society will be on view. Admission free, but if expecting to attend, please advise Mrs Major. Tel: 01-398 5446.

March 24th. Lincoln's Inn

April 5th. Evening visit to the British Museum to view drawings of Surrey.

April 24th. Darenth Valley, Kent.

May 12th. Wakehurst Place and District, Sussex.

June 16th. Kelmscott Manor and Bampton, Oxfordshire.

July 17th. Ockley and Warnham.

July 24th. Oxford.

August 7th. Industrial Archaeology: The Basingstoke Canal and Brookwood Cemetery Railway.

August 28th. Oxted and district.

September 18th. Silchester and North Hants area.

October 9th. Compton and Wanborough.

As it is not always possible to publish details of visits much in advance it is suggested that interested members make a note of these dates.

Subscriptions for 1976

Members are reminded that all subscriptions became due on January 1st, irrespective of the date of joining the Society. Please note that current subscription rates are as follows:

Ordinary Members	...	...	...	...	£4.00
Associate Members	...	...	...	...	50p
Junior Members	...	...	...	...	50p
Junior Members with Collections	...	...	...	...	£2.00
Institutional Members	...	...	...	...	£5.00

EXCAVATION NOTICE

REIGATE TOWN CENTRE: 16 BELL STREET (TQ 25355015)

Director: David Williams

A second season of excavation is now taking place at week-ends on this site, which last year produced substantial evidence of medieval occupation. It is hoped the excavation will continue at least until March.

Volunteers should contact Margaret Trier (Reigate 46475) or the Director at 42 Chart Lane, Reigate.

NOTES AND QUERIES

'Archaeology and the M.25'—an Interim Report

The Surrey Archaeological Society has published an interim report on the archaeological work carried out prior to the construction of the M.25 motorway. It comprises 40 pages of text and illustrations with three maps and is available price 40p direct from Castle Arch (50p by post).

SAS Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held, by kind permission of the Guildford Corporation, in the Guildhall, Guildford, on 1st November, 1975, with Dame Kathleen Kenyon, Patron of the Society, in the Chair.

Mr R. W. McDowall was elected President in succession to Mr J. L. Nevinson, who was elected Vice-President. New members of Council elected were Mr J. C. Bailey; Miss N. Frost; Mr J. Janaway; Mrs K. R. Kay; Mr C. R. Orton, and Mr B. F. J. Pardoe.

It was reported that The Viscountess Hanworth had relinquished the post of Honorary Editor of the Bulletin in order to become Chairman of the Excavations Committee, and Miss Nancy Cox was elected Bulletin Editor in her place. All other Honorary Officers were re-elected.

The Guildford Group of the SAS mounted an excellent exhibition of some of the record cards from their photographic survey of buildings dating from before 1840 in the Guildford Borough (1954/74). A print of a map of the Borough in 1840, which is being prepared from a study of the Tithe Maps, was also displayed.

New Members from 1.9.75

D. C. McHardy, 135 Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom.
C. S. Quinn, 61 Agraria Road, Guildford GU2 5LG.
L. Grugeon, 19 Hall Close, Godalming, GU7 3PW.
J. W. Wakely, 11 High View Road, Guildford GU2 5RS.
R. H. Watts, 2 Brockway Close, Guildford GU1 2LW.
Miss J. E. Somerville, 18 Ganghill, Guildford GU1 1XE.
Miss M. P. Hayman, 27 Alma Road, Carshalton, SM5 2PQ.

New Members from 1.10.75

M. J. Alexander, BA, Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford.
E. D. J. Dixon, 234 Stanley Park Road, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 3JP.
M. Taplin, 21 Cunningham Avenue, Guildford GU1 2PE.
Miss J. I. C. Startin, Dyke Cottage, Lightwater Road, Lightwater.
M. G. O'Connell, MA, 14 Carlos Street, Godalming.
K. A. Lewis, 1 Forge Close, Guildford Road, Farnham GU9 9PX.
Mrs J. E. Vaughan, 23 Lawnsmead Cottages, Wonersh, Guildford.
Mr and Mrs J. Freeman, 32 Somerton's Close, Guildford GU2 6YB.
Mr and Mrs Morphet, 1 Sandalwood Avenue, Chertsey KT16 9PD.

Honorary Local Secretaries

Mr C. R. Orton, 39a Benhill Wood Road, Sutton, has been appointed Honorary Local Secretary for Sutton and Cheam in succession to Mr A. A. D'Encer.

Dr B. H. Kirsop, the Honorary Local Secretary for Bletchingley, Burstow and Nutfield, has changed his address to Little Copsley, Grayhouse Lane, Outwood, Redhill RH1 5PQ.

Conservation Committee

This Committee, with four new members, met on 1st December and elected Mr John Hampton as Chairman.

Among matters discussed were relationships with local historical and amenity societies, and the documents produced by the Surrey County Council preparatory to the publication of a County Structure Plan. The Committee considered the document "Your Views First", which, however, makes little reference to conservation, historical or archaeological matters. It was decided that further discussion of the Background Paper entitled "The Architectural and Historic Heritage of Surrey and its Future" was needed at the next meeting in February. The views of other members of the Society would be welcomed.

Unfortunately Mr George Gouly has had to resign as Secretary of the Committee. He has been concerned particularly with applications to demolish or alter listed buildings which have been referred by the Planning Authorities for the Society's views. If any member would be interested in helping with this work, which involves a good deal of correspondence, on either a county-wide or a local basis, please contact the Meeting Secretary, Mrs K. R. Kay, 1 Beech Lawn, Epsom Road, Guildford (Guildford 70464).

(Note: Copies of the twelve Background Papers, including the one mentioned above, can be obtained from The County Planning Officer, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston-on-Thames KT1 2DT., (50p each), or they can be borrowed from local libraries.)

(Mrs K. R. Kay)

Museums Committee

This Committee has been re-formed with Mr J. L. Nevinson as Chairman, and Mrs M. P. Smith as Secretary, and is considering the role that the SAS should play in furthering the Museums service in Surrey.

(Marion Smith)

Publications Committee

This Committee has been formed in order to consider various aspects relating to the publications of the Society. Miss M. Gollancz is Chairman, and Dr D. B. Robinson is Secretary of the Committee.

Please note that requests for off-prints should continue to be sent to Castle Arch, and not to the new Committee.

(D. B. Robinson)

Survey of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Administrative County of Surrey

In the period since June of this year, the services of the Society's local secretaries have been called into use in an exercise designed to establish the present condition of the scheduled ancient monuments in the County. Each secretary whose area includes such a monument has been sent a check list for each different monument. One of the most important purposes of this exercise is an attempt to establish the current threats to our monuments. Already one or two major threats have been revealed and it is clear that many monuments are suffering from neglect, especially the earthworks such as barrows, hill-forts and moats.

Many local secretaries have responded nobly to this call for information and have sent in full details, often accompanied by photographs. To them I should like to express my thanks. If their work is to have any meaning for the County as a whole it must be based on a survey of all the monuments, and it is to be hoped that this note will act as a gentle reminder to those local secretaries who have as yet been unable to complete the work.

(D. G. Bird)

The Moated Sites Research Group

This Group, which was formed on a country-wide basis to co-ordinate research into moated sites and to provide for their central recording and publishing, held a week-end Conference at Surrey University on the 25th/26th October, 1975.

The Chair at the lecture programme on the Saturday was taken by Mrs H. E. Jean le Patourel in the morning, and by Mr D. J. Turner in the afternoon. A special welcome was given to a researcher from Belgium who, in an impromptu lecture, compared Belgian moated sites with the types found in this country.

The Sunday programme provided members with an enjoyable opportunity to visit and to exchange views on a number of varied moated sites in the vicinity of Guildford—Old Hall, Send; Woking Palace; Guildford Park; Shalford and Great Tangle Manor.

Anyone interested in joining the Group should contact the Secretary, Mr F. A. Aberg, 59 Forest Lane, Kirklevington, Yarm, TS15 9NE, Cleveland.

Surrey History, Vol 1, No 3

Members of the SAS may purchase this at the special rate of 35p plus 10p postage from Mr T. E. C. Walker, Spring Grove, Water Lane, Cobham, to whom cheques should be made payable.

Corrections: EAHY Awards

Bulletin 120 (September, 1975). The Kennington note should read Kennington Lane, not Road. (Editor)

Bulletin 121 (October, 1975). The notes on the Civic Trust Awards for EAHY should not have been credited to the writer but to the Civic Trust publication Heritage Year Awards. The notes were edited abstracts from this publication. (D. J. Turner)

Brick Tiles

The Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) is preparing a report on Brick Tiles (otherwise known as mathematical tiles) in Surrey. These tiles, often difficult to distinguish from brick, were manufactured from the early eighteenth century onwards and the oldest known dated example is 1724. Although generally brick coloured, one example of brown glazed tiles has been recorded (at Wotton House, now the Fire Service College, formerly the home of the Evelyn family), and also some white tiles, but as yet none having black glaze such as can be found in Sussex. Their use ranges from refronting older buildings (several cases are known of brick tiles covering brick) to complete cladding of a purpose built house.

The Group would be pleased to hear of any building on which Brick Tiles are used, even if only a small quantity, say blocking a window, or their existence on any demolished buildings. Please contact: Ian J. West, 29 Cox Lane, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey. Office: 01-397 5266 ext 2303.

Dorking: 30 Church Street (TQ 16494947)

During October a trial excavation was undertaken behind No 30 Church Street, Dorking, to assess the archaeological potential of the area before the site was redeveloped. The proximity of the church made the area a possible one for early medieval occupation, whilst the site might have provided evidence for the route of Stane Street which is assumed to pass through the town. However, excavation revealed an eighteenth century building known to exist already from the Tithe map of 1842, and known to have been demolished c. 1920 before No 30 was built. The building lay on agricultural soil indicating lack of settlement before the eighteenth century in the immediate area already suggested by William Forster's Survey of 1649. Apart from a few thirteenth/fourteenth century sherds a fairly large quantity of fourth century Alice Holt pottery was found, suggesting that the soil had been redeposited, and confirming the likelihood of some form of Romano-British settlement at or near Dorking, already hinted at by other finds in the area .

(M. G. O'Connell, Field Officer)

Ewell: St Mary's Churchyard (TQ 2221563044)

The series of excavations carried out by the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society since 1970 in St Mary's Churchyard, Ewell, around the route of Stane Street is now complete. The current season's work found a spur road or yard running north-west constructed of flint nodules and gravel. This construction was followed to the edge of the churchyard, but no contemporary building was found. The flint surface had been cut by later post holes and a possible bedding trench. The considerable quantity of artefacts—coins, pottery and flint flakes found both above and below the road surface is now being analysed. Permission is being sought to carry out further excavations beyond the churchyard boundary.

(R. Temple and J. Barfoot)

Reigate: Somer's Hall (TQ 2503750338)

A small trial excavation behind Somer's Hall took place recently to assess the archaeological potential of an area due to be redeveloped. The site lay within the medieval triangular Market Place. Bryant's Survey of 1785 showed a granary and a house which might have intruded into the site whilst Somer's Hall itself, built in 1885, lies between two sixteenth century buildings.

However the site failed to realise any of its suspected potential. The excavation merely revealed a modern drainage pipe resting on natural greensand 60cm below ground level. Above the pipe, some of the fill, which included a layer of tiles and mortar, and a few sherds of eighteenth and nineteenth century pottery, may have been associated with an earlier building on the site.

On the basis of this excavation it may be seen that the area behind the hall has been heavily disturbed and there is no likelihood of any stratified material within the area.

(M. G. O'Connell, Field Officer)

Seale, Crooksbury: Two dubious Hill Forts

Millett's publication of the group of Belgic pottery found in 1939 at Tilford¹ is to be welcomed. Very little attention has been paid recently to local aspects of the transition period between Iron Age and Roman Britain. But the purpose of this note is to question the designation of two earthworks, Soldiers Ring (SU 880462) and Botany Hill (SU 875462) as Iron Age hill forts. Field work has suggested a different interpretation, and in 1971 Farnham Museum Society published a resumé² of a lecture delivered by Mr Wardale of the Ordnance Survey, from which the following extract is taken:

Crooksbury Hill is a prominent cone-shaped eminence commanding extensive views. The summit is small and bears no evidence of earthworks (although Mesolithic material and a Late Bronze Age hoard have been found on it), but on one of its lower spurs, well below the summit, is a small ovoid enclosure known as the Soldiers Ring. It is fairly strong, obviously defensive, and comprises a simple rampart and ditch with a single, probably original, causewayed entrance. The work is scheduled, but unclassified, having been called in the past a Tumulus and an Iron Age hill fort, and described as roughly circular or more or less rectangular. One authority calls it a natural hill artificially altered, and you can hardly be more non-committal than that.

Some 500m west a very similar if less well preserved earthwork occupies an almost identical position. But while the Soldiers Ring is very well known, this twin has passed almost unnoticed. However, be that as it may, the important thing now is that the Soldiers Ring can no longer be regarded in isolation; it must be regarded as one of a pair. This is an important new element and puts a quite different complexion on the classification. A general glance at the terrain shows that the two Soldiers Rings are undoubtedly sited to cover the south-east routes to the Farnham gap, and such a sophisticated concept of defence or strategy would be more referable to Roman or Medieval times than any other, though with Farnham being an important Saxon town, a Saxon origin is just possible. Nevertheless, taking all things into account, the likelihood is that these rings are medieval and they do for Farnham Castle on the south-east what the Powderham Complex does for it on the west.

The name certainly suggests a traditional garrisoning of some sort and even if this conclusion still leaves some room for argument, at least it has no glaring anomalies.

The sites have assumed importance since the publication of Bishop's paper on the Non-Belgic Iron Age in Surrey.³ The writer hopes that future workers will treat them with caution until their origin can be better established.

(Rosamond Hanworth)

1. Millett, M., 1974. A Group of First Century Pottery from Tilford. SAC LXX 19-24.
2. Day, B. P., 1971. Some Enigmatic Earthworks of Hampshire and Surrey Farnham MS Newsletter II, 9, 5-6.
3. Bishop, M. W., 1971. The Non-Belgic Iron Age in Surrey. SAC LXVIII, 1-30.

COURSES

SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Arranged by Surrey Archaeological Society and
University of Surrey Centre for Adult Education
Lecture Theatre "F", University of Surrey
7.30 p.m. on the following Friday evenings

(Application form was circularised with **Bulletin 122**)

(Fee £2.50. SAS Members £1.25)

January

- 16 Resistivity Detection—Tony Clark (Ancient Monuments Laboratory)
- 23 Thermoluminescence Dating at the British Museum—Mary-Ann Seeley
- 30 Magnetic Detection—Tony Clark

February

- 6 Environmental Sampling—Helen Keeley
- 13 First Aid for Finds—Ian Cross
- 20 Wood and Charcoal Identification—Carole Keepax
- 27 Surveying—Chris Taylor (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments)

March

- 5 Tree-ring dating—John Fletcher (Research Laboratory for Archaeology, Oxford)
- 12 Being a Technological Detective—Leo Biek
- 19 Ancient Astronomy—Keith Puttick (University of Surrey)
- 26 Magnetic Dating—Tony Clark

ARCHAEOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Extra-Mural Course

The City University, St John Street, London EC1V 4PB

12 Lectures (commencing Monday, 12th January at 7 p.m.) and a week-end seminar

Course Organiser: David Price Williams

Fee £7.50

Further details from the Secretary, General Studies (Extra-Mural Courses)

Tel: 01-253 4399 Ext 496)

FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL

Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking RH5 6DA

(Tel: Dorking 3849)

9th/13th August. Recording Farmhouses and Cottages.

Tutor: Joan Harding. Fee: £28.

23rd/30th August. Archaeology and Landscape.

Tutor: Rosamond Hanworth. Fee: £39.

The courses consist of field excursions, followed by study and discussion.
For further details of these, and other Courses arranged by the Centre,
please contact the Warden (enclosing s.a.e.).

BOURNE SOCIETY COURSE—EAST SURREY HERITAGE

A Course of 10 talks by Surrey speakers at Gresham School, Sanderstead,
on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m., commencing 14th January. Fee: £2:

SEMINAR

LONDON KILNS—ROMAN TO RECENT

University College, Gower Street, London

Saturday/Sunday, 24th/25th April

(Application Form enclosed with this Bulletin)

This Seminar is being arranged by the London Kiln Study Group, which was formed in March, 1975, with a view to encouraging the archaeological and documentary research of pottery kilns.

MEETINGS

JANUARY

Saturday 10th, 3 p.m.

PONDS. Talk by C. W. Ward to Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington AS in Darby and Joan Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

Wednesday 14th, 8 p.m.

GETTING TO THE ROOTS OF THE FAMILY TREE. Talk by Miss E. M. Tillman to Leatherhead & District LHS in the Red Cross Hall, Oaks Close, near Leatherhead Station.

Wednesday 14th, 8 p.m.

OLD BATTERSEA. Talk by R. Logan to Wandsworth HS at West Hill Library.

Friday 16th, 7.45 p.m.

HOP GROWING IN DECLINE: 1872/1972. Talk by Mrs V. O'Rourke to Farnham & District MS in the Council Chamber of Farnham Locality Office, South Street, Farnham.

Friday 16th, 8 p.m.

THE CITY SCENE—A WALK AROUND LONDON. Talk by Mr Carr to Merton HS in the Lecture Room, Morden Library.

Wednesday 21st, 8.15 p.m.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN STAINES. Talk by K. R. Crouch to Walton & Weybridge LHS at Elmgrove, Walton.

Friday 23rd, 7.45 p.m.

ATLANTIS AND AFTER. Talk by Kenneth Clark to Farnham & District MS. (Venue as above).

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 4th, 8 p.m.

MEDIEVAL CHURCHES. Talk by E. J. Phillips to Nonsuch AS at Glyn Hall, Ewell.

Friday 6th, 7.45 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. Talk by David Graham to Farnham & District MS. (Venue as above).

APPOINTMENTS

The Surrey Archaeological Society will be carrying out excavations under the direction of the two Field Officers in the three months January/March, 1976. Archaeological workers are urgently required, and will be paid at the rate of £30 per week. Some experience welcomed. Apply: D. G. Bird, Castle Arch, Guildford.

The next issue of the Bulletin will be in February. Copy is required by 5th January