

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

BULLETIN

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

TRAINING EXCAVATION NOTICE

The Society's Excavations Committee plans to carry out a training excavation on the supposed site of a twelfth/thirteenth century Manor House, west of the Roman Catholic Church of St Edward, in Sutton Park, south of Woking (TQ 00455380). The excavation will be under the direction of D. G. Bird. The site is a scheduled ancient monument which will eventually become part of the graveyard of the church and work will take place by kind permission of Canon Gordon Albion, and the Department of the Environment.

The excavation will last for two weeks from 31st July-12th August inclusive, except for Sunday 6th. Training will be given in basic excavation techniques and trainees will only be accepted if they can guarantee to attend for at least six days. Further details can be obtained from D. G. Bird at Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX. Telephone Guildford 32454.

VISITS

Saturday, 13th May

VISIT TO OAKWOOD HILL

Arranged by Miss Josephine Carter and the Ockley Society

10.30 a.m. Meet at the Punchbowl Inn, Oakwood Hill (TQ 132373). The Ockley Society has prepared an exhibition in the Punchbowl, illustrating the history of Oakwood Hill.

During the morning we will visit: Ruckmans (Sir Rex Cohen, OBE) TQ 135367 and Monk's Farm (Mr and Mrs E. J. Pearce), TQ 130360.

Hot and cold snacks available at the Punchbowl, allowing time to see the exhibition.

2.30 p.m. The Church of St John the Baptist, TQ 128380. Visit Pollingfold (Mr H. G. Venables) and Hale House (Col and Mrs J. H. S. Martin), TQ 137376.

Mr Robert Chambers, licensee of the Punchbowl, besides accommodating the exhibition, will have tea available during the afternoon.

Tickets (members 30p, visitors 40p, students half price and accompanied children free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0QL.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM

Members are reminded of the visit to the 1977 European Award Winning Ironbridge Gorge Museum on 5th/6th August (see Bulletin 141) for which full details will be published shortly.

NOTES AND QUERIES

New Members from 1.1.78

The Director, The Borthwick Institute, St Anthony's Hall, Peasholme Green, York, YO1 2PW.

Mrs G. Paterson, 26 Havers Avenue, Hersham, Walton on Thames, KT12 4ND.

N. Covey, Brook Cottage, Crabtree Lane, Churt, GU10 2LA.

Professor and Mrs Boyland, 42 Bramerton Street, London, SW3 5LA.

P. G. Inwood, Melrose, Westbrook Road, Godalming, GU7 2QH.

Mr and Mrs Gower, 28 Gingers Close, Cranleigh, GU6 7LJ.

Miss R. S. Onslow, 9 Rose Lane, Ripley, GU23 6NE.

Mrs S. M. Peters, 15 Omerod Gardens, Mitcham, CR4 2LP.

D. J. Hertzell, 15 Dowlans, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, KT23 4LF.

Mrs J. M. Mowbray, 23 Nork Rise, Banstead.

Mrs D. M. Miller, Ganavan, Guildford Road, Pirbright, GU24 0LW.

Miss S. R. Bazalgette, Manesty, Rickford, Worplesdon, Guildford, GU3 3PJ.

Miss M. E. Parker, Cobblers, East Shalford Lane, Guildford, GU4 8AF.

Mrs M. Crane, 37 Beech Road, Epsom, KT17 4NH.

P. N. Horgan, Old Manor Farm, Dorking Road, Chilworth, Guildford, GU4 8WE.

J. T. J. Bickmore, The Star, Church Street, Godalming.

Mr and Mrs M. W. Wood, 25 Busdens Lane, Milford, Godalming, GU8 5JR.

Miss I. Cove, 78 Dora Road, Wimbledon, SW19 7HH.

London Borough of Merton, Mitcham Library, London Road, Mitcham, CR4 2YR.

London Borough of Merton, Morden Library, Morden Road, SW19 3DA.

J. R. Warren, MCIBS, 37 Queenhythe Road, Jacobs Well, Guildford, GU4 7NU.

Miss A. M. S. Whalley, 40 Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon, CR3 2HB.

I. Gillespie, FRCS, 19 Halford Road, Richmond.

C. R. Shephard, Searle House, Searle Road, Farnham, GU9 8LT.

The Curator, Camberley Museum, Knoll Road, Camberley.

Conservation Committee

This Committee is currently considering a number of important cases, some of which already have a long history. Of particular concern is the continued loss of historic buildings in Epsom, the most recent problem being the proposal to demolish most of the buildings, all listed as of historic interest, in the Prospect Place Conservation Area, designated only about three years ago. The Committee, which is working in consultation with local organisations, believes the cottages in this area are capable of restoration and would still make attractive dwellings. Anyone who can offer any technical advice on this is invited to contact the Committee Secretary, Mrs Katherine Kay, 1 Beech Lawn, Epsom Road, Guildford (Guildford 70464). We also ask local members to protest to the local planning authority.

The saga of Clarendon House, Dorking, also continues. The County Council is believed to be about to apply again for permission to demolish, which was refused last year. Suggestions for possible users, either residential or for offices, would be helpful.

The Committee still need local assistance in inspecting and advising on proposals affecting historic buildings. There is now a representative in each District, but it may be difficult for one person to cover the larger areas and report at the short notice usually required. Volunteers are therefore needed. Assistance is also required in identifying and recording historic barns and other farm buildings—the Conservation Committee has recently started a special investigation in conjunction with the Domestic Buildings Research Group. The object is first to establish what buildings of age and interest exist and whether or not they are on the statutory list of historic buildings; secondly to record them in detail, and then to decide which it is most important to retain. Many of these buildings are not adaptable to modern agricultural use, and their retention in good repair is a great burden on farmers, although very many more might be kept if suitable alternative uses could be found.

This work involves measuring and producing clear sketches as well as being able to identify features of interest. Training sessions can be arranged for those with no previous experience. We would also be glad to hear from anyone who knows where there is an old barn, whether it is part of a farm group, or isolated, or possibly already converted to some different use. The contact on barns is Miss Joan Harding, 11 Lintons Lane, Epsom.

(Katherine Kay)

Chertsey: London Street

Excavations took place on the site of Nos 14, 16 and 18 London Street, Chertsey (TQ 044668), between 14th September and 18th November, 1977, following demolition prior to the construction of a road. The work was directed by the writer for the professional team, four or five people being employed full-time throughout the work. The excavations could not however, have been completed in the short time available without the help of many volunteers. I am particularly grateful to the small nucleus of people who turned out regularly in all weathers.

The recent publication of "Historic Towns in Surrey" by M. O'Connell (SAS Res. Vol. 5, 1977), has emphasised how little is known about our medieval towns. For Chertsey he noted a number of questions which archaeological work could hope to answer, such as the date of the original settlement, the period when the present street pattern became established, and the economic fortunes of the medieval town. The site on London Street, close to its junction with Guildford Street, and also near to the Parish Church, offered the chance to resolve some of these problems.

The final, late nineteenth century, building on the site had very solid concrete foundations, which did not, however, seriously disturb the earliest medieval layers on the site. At least seven phases of brick-built structures were noted; it was not possible to determine to how many buildings these had related.

The latest timber building on the site was of the late sixteenth century. It was principally represented by a rubble built chimney breast, which incorporated an earlier hearth constructed of tiles laid on edge. While this building (or buildings, since another hearth of similar date was found), survived only very fragmentarily, the preceding structures were far better preserved. The floor levels of a timber building of probably fourteenth century date survived particularly well. It was possible to pick out a number of divisions within this building by the variation in makeup of the floor levels. The partition walls must have been flimsy since no trace of them was found. Remains of several supports of major timber uprights were found—one relatively complete due to being built into a later structure. These timber uprights consisted of piers of tiles bonded with clay laid upon squared-off stones. When this building went out of use the site remained open for some time, as evidenced by midden material, honey-combed with rat holes, which accumulated.

The clay flooring of the above building effectively sealed nearly all the pits and post-holes of earlier occupation. These post-holes could be interpreted as being of successive timber buildings, the later being built on an alignment only marginally different to the earlier. The earliest building was probably of the twelfth century.

Processing and study of the finds from the site has not yet been completed but it should be possible to build up a fairly full sequence of pottery fabrics and forms from the twelfth to nineteenth centuries. One abraded sherd of late Saxon pottery was found, but otherwise the earliest types of pottery are shell-tempered and flint-tempered wares, followed by hard grey wares.

Small finds of importance were very infrequent. Six coins were found, the earliest being of Charles II. The floor of the fourteenth century building produced a piece of Chertsey tile with a fleur-de-lis design, whilst a pit with much shell-tempered pot produced an iron dagger.

Evidence of industry, as one would expect from a street frontage site, was very limited. The finding of iron slag and of lump iron indicated that iron-working was being practised nearby in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Several of the earlier pits clearly had industrial uses, though they produced no diagnostic material.

In conclusion, we might look at how far the excavation answered the questions outlined in the second paragraph. The alignment of all the buildings found clearly respected the line of London Street, or its predecessor. It is reasonable therefore to say that the town was founded, with its present street pattern, by the twelfth century. Of Chertsey's economic fortunes it is more difficult to speak with certitude. This first excavation in the historic town will, when the results are studied fully and published, give a basis on which future work can build to reconstruct its early history.

(R. J. Poulton)

Egham: Hatchment Boards

When I purchased the guide-book to St John the Baptist Parish Church, Egham in 1975, I read that two hatchment boards bearing arms of the Foster family hung above the stairways leading from the porch to the gallery. Unfortunately this was not the case, since they had been dumped in the crypt in a neglected condition.

The word "hatchment" derives from the mediaeval word "achievement" and thus, heraldically, identifies in symbols an individual by some or all of, a coat of arms, or shield, a helm, a crest, mantling and a motto. Hatchment boards, which are generally diamond-shaped, originated in the Low Countries and appeared in England in the seventeenth century. They were produced following the death of an important person and were hung in the front of the deceased's house during the period of mourning. Occasionally they were carried in the funeral procession. Following the period of mourning they were hung in the church. The boards are found either painted on canvas or wood. They comprise the full heraldic achievement of the deceased painted on a background of black or black and white. If the former then the deceased was a bachelor, spinster, widow or widower, whereas in the latter instance, of a married individual, black was to be found behind half of the achievement representing the deceased leaving the other half on a white background, representing the deceased's surviving husband or wife. In heraldry a husband takes the dexter (or right-hand side from behind) whilst his wife takes the sinister. Thus, provided an achievement can be identified, an accurate date can be applied to the board by reference to the College of Arms or learned works. I understand that the number of surviving hatchment boards in Britain is about 5,000. Research shows that their peak year for popularity was 1837 and even today the custom is not obsolete.

I was determined that Egham's boards should not be lost to future generations, and telephoned the Victoria and Albert Museum who provided me with the names of likely grant-making bodies, since both the Parish Church Council, who had heavy financial commitments, and my Society were without funds. One such body was The Marc Fitch Fund of Kingston Gorse, Sussex who gave me the name of the foremost authority on hatchment boards, Mr P. S. Summers, FSA, of North Stoke, Oxfordshire, who has compiled a list of boards in England and Wales. This gentleman provided me with details of the boards and also the name of a specialist in their restoration. Mr Summers confirmed that the note in the church guide was incorrect in that the boards were not for Fosters, but for Thomas Rawdon Ward who died on 25th February, 1863 and for his wife Ann Rawdon Ward who died on 13th August, 1845. It may be that the Foster arms in fact appear in the coat of arms, but only as a quartering indicating a previous (and distant) marriage. The other family names are of Wood and Hawkes. Thomas' father married a Hawkes heiress. A coat of arms in the centre of the boards is that of Clark of Greenham, Berkshire and is said to be "in pretence", indicating that Ann was Ann Clark prior to marriage in 1815 and that she was an heiress, meaning, in heraldry, that there were no male heirs in her family.

The restorer's name given to me was Lt Col R. L. V. French Blake, DSO, of Woolhampton, Berkshire who visited Egham some time ago to quote for the boards' restoration. One board needed to be relined completely with new canvas and various tears mended, whilst both were in need of cleaning, re-touching and re-varnishing. Both were painted on canvas in a wooden frame.

I then applied to The Marc Fitch Fund and one other body for a full grant, providing both of them with photographs, the estimate, their provenances and, importantly, an undertaking from the PCC that the boards would be re-hung in the church on restoration. In May 1977, the former

offered a full grant, in contrast to the other fund who offered nothing, and I was then able to commission the work. On 27th July, 1977 they were delivered by the restorer to Egham Parish Church where the Vicar and a deputation from my Society and the Press were awaiting their return. The boards have been restored splendidly and are now in their rightful place in the Church for present and future generations to admire.

The Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society is most grateful to The Marc Fitch Fund for their generosity, without which these wonderful boards, relics of Egham's history, would doubtless be languishing in the crypt today.

Anyone interested in the history of Egham is invited to my Society's Museum in the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham, open on Saturdays from 10.30-12.30 and 2.30-4.30.

(Vivian Bairstow)

Southwark: 199 Borough High Street

Excavations at this site in 1961 are the subject of a full report by C. R. Orton and D. J. Turner which was sent to the Society's Editor in April 1977. As publication is being delayed, it is as well to place on record that an annotated copy of the typescript has been lodged at the Cuming Museum, Southwark, together with the finds. The report may be consulted there without any reference to the authors but any quotation or abstract that any future worker may wish to publish should be accompanied by an appropriate acknowledgment.

(D. J. Turner)

Stanwell

A small-scale excavation took place at Stanwell in a field just to the south of Heathrow Airport (TQ 054745) from 21st November to 23rd December, 1977. The work was done by the writer and two full-time assistants.

The site was identified from aerial photographs which showed a number of crop marks whose exact interpretation was difficult, though some at least represented a Roman road (see D. Longley, "The Archaeological Implications of Gravel Extraction in North-west Surrey", SAS Res, Vol. 3, 1976, 31). A gravel extraction company has control of the land and they have applied for permission to extract gravel. This was initially refused but they have appealed against that decision. It was therefore decided to begin preliminary archaeological work so that the professional team could be prepared for large-scale excavation if and when it became necessary.

A geophysical survey of the site by Mr A. J. Clark failed to detect any anomalies. A trial trench 4m x 4m was therefore opened. An attempt was made to locate this at the junction of a ditch of the Roman road and another ditch-like crop mark, but this proved a difficult undertaking for two reasons:

1. The relevant vertical aerial photograph covers a very large area making accurate translation to the map difficult,
2. the field itself is very large—nearly 50 acres—and has no features identified on the OS maps within it.

Despite this, two ditches, having approximately the expected angular relationship to each other, were found. The presumed Roman ditch was

seen immediately after removal of the modern plough soil (25-30 cm in depth). The other ditch was not seen until some 75 cm of overburden was removed. At a similar depth a shallow gully, two pits and two post-holes were detected. The depth to natural gravel was variable but usually 80-90 cm. None of the features produced dateable material. The only finds of note were sherds of hand-made pottery at the surface of the layers through which the pits and post-holes were cut. This pottery has not as yet been identified.

The work has made it clear that if permission for gravel extraction is granted a large-scale excavation must be mounted.

(R. J. Poulton)

The Surrey Iron Railway; the Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Railway; the Croydon Canal; and London Bridge

The use of Surrey's pioneer railways for transporting stone from Merstham to Wandsworth in connection with the rebuilding of London Bridge in 1825-31 has been queried (Lionel Green, in *Bulletin* 143). This tradition perhaps originated with R. I. Woodhouse's claim that "As late as 1824 stone was hewn for London Bridge, and a carved pier with three heads was let into the Church tower arch by the contractor, which associates our parish with that great undertaking." (*Short Account of . . . Merstham*, 1911.) It was supported by C. G. Dobson, not very convincingly, in his statement on the railway that "principal deliveries on the outward journeys from Merstham must have been of stone; this he took to the railway company's dock or 'bason' at Wandsworth, whence it was barged to London Bridge and other such public works". (*A Century and a Quarter*, 1951.)

Several sources give some impressions of the Merstham stone mines' fortunes during the first 40 years of last century, and reinforce our doubts about the role of firestone in the new bridge, especially as we have it on the authority of Manning & Bray that "this stone has been rejected in building the Strand Bridge" (*The History of Surrey*, 1804-14).

The limeworks and quarries were clearly of sufficient value to their proprietors at the start of the century to justify quite massive expenditure on capital works, including a share of the costs of the railway made to Merstham in 1804-5; a masonry-lined drainage adit driven upwards and northwards from lower ground through Gault Clay to intersect the flooded mine galleries, which took from 1807 to 1809 to complete, and which would appear to rival Marc Brunel's first Thames Tunnel as a remarkable subterranean undertaking below the water table; and a steam engine for raising the stone, known to have been in use by 1819.

According to Woodhouse, the extraordinary sum of £2,200 compensation was paid by Jolliffe, as a lessee of the quarries, to a Mr Durrant, whose mill had allegedly been deprived of its motive power by the draining off of water through the adit. The hardly less extraordinary trial said to have been held at Kingston on 2nd April, 1810, we are told, lasted for seven hours. I have yet to trace the contemporary record of this action, which does not appear to be at the SRO. I have, too, to trace the notebooks, compiled by a previous incumbent, on which Woodhouse based his booklet.

No doubt some of the willingness to spend large sums of money was related to hopes for a handsome return on the fruition of the several schemes for canal or railway connections from London via Merstham to

the Channel, though none of these was realised until the main steam line to Brighton was built in the late 1830s; by then the stone mines appear to have been effectively abandoned.

Woodhouse and others have chronicled the constant struggle against flooding in the mines, which I have reviewed briefly elsewhere (in *Surrey History* 1(3), 83-94, 1975).

By 1836-7 Stephenson and others, in planning their rival schemes for the new Brighton line, remarked on the possibility of selling off stone taken from their intended cuttings and tunnel, and of surplus spoil being "deposited at the old quarries". As I read these sources, I am left with a strong impression of virtually derelict and flooded stone mines during the period 1825-31, although the chalk pits and lime works may well have been thriving.

Perhaps the London Bridge tradition arose from confusion with the somewhat less uncertain or improbable use of firestone in the old bridge, and perhaps the carved stone set into the church fabric was a souvenir from its demolition. Merstham lime (a good Lower Chalk grey or hydraulic lime) very probably was used in the mortar for the new structure; clearly the only place for Merstham firestone would have been as rubble filling, and I do not recall it being reported from the demolition.

(Paul W. Sowan)

MEETINGS

MAY

Wednesday 3rd, 5.30 p.m.

ROMAN FORTS OF THE SAXON SHORE. Talk by M. Hassall to the Guildford Branch of the Classical Association at the High School for Girls, London Road, Guildford. Visitors welcome.

Wednesday 3rd, 8 p.m.

HAM HOUSE. Talk by Audrey Field to Nonsuch AS in St Mary's Hall, Ewell.

Tuesday 9th, 8 p.m.

CHALK FIGURES OF ENGLAND. Talk by C. Stanley to Egham-by-Runnymede HS at the Literary Institute (1st floor), Egham High Street.

Tuesday 16th, 8.15 p.m.

LEITH HILL. Talk by E. H. Rideout to a combined meeting of Albury, Ockley and Shere Local History Societies, in Shere Memorial Hall.

Thursday 18th, 8.15 p.m.

MAKE IT, MOULD IT, MEND IT. Talk by local craftsmen to The Charlwood Society in the Parish Hall, Charlwood.

Friday 19th, 7.45 p.m.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF KINGSTON. Talk by Marion Smith to the Archaeology Section of The Richmond Society in Richmond Adult College, Kew Road, Richmond.

Next **Bulletin**: May, for which copy is required by the 5th April. Following **Bulletin**: June, for which copy is required by the 5th May.