

SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

**BULLETIN**

Number 148

June 1978

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

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**EXCAVATION NOTICE**

**MERTON PRIORY**

Volunteers are welcome on the excavation of the chapter house of the Austin Priory of St Mary, Merton. The final season will begin on 1st June and will continue until 10th July. The excavation will run from Wednesday through Monday inclusive, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Further details from J. S. McCracken, 32 Creffield Road, Ealing, W5 3RP (992 1737).

**VISITS**

**Saturday, 22nd July**

**VISIT TO EWELL VILLAGE**

Arranged by Mr F. E. Manning and the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society

- 11.00 a.m. Meet at St Mary's Church; free car parks close by.
- 11-12.30 Mr Ian West, Nonsuch Society and DBRG, will lead a walk round the village of Ewell with its many ancient roads and houses.
- 12.30 p.m. St Mary's Hall. Picnic lunches here if wet; light refreshments will be available to those applying at 11 o'clock.  
Members will be shown the Nonsuch Palace finds in the Bourne Hall Museum after lunch.
- 2.00 p.m. Mr Wignall and Mr West will talk about the history of Ewell and an archaeologist will discuss the current work being done on the Roman site adjacent to Stane Street and afterwards conduct the party over the site.
- 4.15 p.m. Tea at St Mary's Hall, 25p. Please book in advance.

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

**Saturday, 5th August**

**Sunday, 6th August**

### **TWO-DAY VISIT TO WEST MIDLANDS**

A visit to the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum (winner of the Museum of the Year award) with overnight accommodation (single rooms) in the North Worcs. College. A fairly strenuous two days with coach travel and some walking.

Arranged by Mrs Sylvia Lewin (East Horsley 3779)

**Saturday**

8.15 a.m. prompt: Coach leaves Reigate, rear of Woolworths.

8.30 a.m. Dorking Halls.

9.00 a.m. Esher BR Station.

Lunch at the old Bull's Head Inn, Wootton Wawen, with a visit to the interesting parish church. Afternoon guided tour of the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings.

Dinner, bed and breakfast at North Worcs. College, Bromsgrove. Evening free.

**Sunday**

8.30 a.m. Leave for Ironbridge for a whole day guided tour of this four-site museum of industrial archaeology in the dramatic setting of the Severn gorge.

4.30 p.m. approx.: Leave for return journey.

Limited numbers, so early booking advisable. The charge of £12 includes coach fare, admission to both museums and cost of guides, accommodation in the College, and all (simple) meals except tea and supper on Sunday and any drinks and "elevenses". Rebate of 70p for OAPs, children and students (students cards to be shown). Please apply for this when booking if applicable. Non-members 25p extra.

Bookings, with £3 deposit please, by 20th July to Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, KT7 0QL. Tel.: 01-398 5446.

## **NOTES AND QUERIES**

**New Members from 1.3.78**

K. Brine, 29 Parsons Green, Haslemere, GU27 1EE.

P. C. M. Peachey, 68 Puckshott Way, Haslemere, GU27 1EH.

Mrs A. M. Bula, 15 Glebe Court, Cross Lanes, Guildford, GU1 1SU.

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

C. R. Shepherd, Searle House, Searle Road, Farnham, GU9 8LJ.

J. Gent, MCIT, 87 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6BH.

**Excavations Committee Annual Symposium**

The Symposium held at Dorking Halls on 15th April, and organised by the Excavations Committee, proved to be a considerable success. Over 100 people attended (not including speakers), and they enjoyed a varied programme of lectures on topics ranging from the Bronze Age to the nineteenth century, and right across the county. The latest advances in scientific

archaeology were seen alongside more traditional methods, and the integration of amateur and professional work was well demonstrated by the different contributions and the many displays of work seen around the hall.

The Excavation Committee wishes to thank the many people who worked hard to produce displays, the lecturers and the excellent chairman, Dennis Turner, who coped cheerfully with a tight programme disorganised by a late start and a subsequent projector failure.

Thanks also go to Clare Smith and her helpers for an excellent tea.

Much encouraged by this support, the Committee has canvassed the views of local societies through its Liaison meetings, and intends to make the Symposium a regular event in Dorking. By demand the programme will be devoted to relatively short talks of strictly county interest, as representative as possible of the latest work being undertaken. Constructive suggestions for improvements in organisation will be gratefully received by the writer.

The next Symposium has already been booked for Saturday, 19th May, 1979; programme organisers please note.

(D. G. Bird, Secretary: Excavations Committee)

### **Petters Sports Field**

Members of the Society may like to note that an interim report on the very important finds from Petters Sports Field has now been published in the *London Archaeologist* Vol. 3 No. 5, Winter 1977. The report by Martin O'Connell and Stuart Needham concentrates on the discovery of a Late Bronze Age hoard. There are several illustrations accompanying the report which runs to eight pages. The volume containing the article can be obtained from Sally Petchey, 92 Kingsway, West Wickham, Kent, at a cost of 40p including postage.

(D. G. Bird)

### **Silver coins found on the banks of the Thames**

In the summers of 1976 and 1977, silver coins were found on the banks of the Thames in the vicinity of Brentford and Kew (c. TQ 17NE-TQ 27NW). The coins were found by metal detectors, and the quantity is unknown since many have been sold without any record. Those that are known include five silver coins of Verica, identified as Mack 115, 118, 120, 123, 128; three silver coins of Eppillus, identified as Mack 107 and 108; one silver coin of Caralla, identified as Mack 265; and a silver minim of 3.5 gm. ob. CARA rev. PEGASUS. All are in the possession of, and have been identified by, Mr H. Mossop (South Humberside).

Of these coins one is particularly interesting. It is a coin of Verica (Mack 120) which gives an unrecorded reverse; the details of this coin are published in *Seabey's Coin and Metal Bulletin*, March 1977.

The coins are of especial archaeological interest, since coins of the Atrebatas found this far east are extremely rare. I am concerned that the existence, location and details of these coins are not recorded. Since they are often of considerable monetary value it is not surprising that archaeologists are seldom informed, but I would like to stress that we would be very

grateful just to be told of their existence. Similar coins may be being found in other reaches of the Thames, and elsewhere, so please could anyone who finds or knows of such finds contact their local archaeologist or museum.

(Annie Robinson, South West London Team,  
21 Harbut Road, London SW11)

### **Industrial Archaeology Committee**

Ever since its formation, the Industrial Archaeology Committee has been concerned with the need for the systematic recording of Surrey's Industrial History. Little is sometimes recorded about the immediate past and if this unsatisfactory state of affairs is to be corrected a considerable effort must now be made by those members of the Society whose concern is Industrial Archaeology.

We have recently been asked to provide a list of industrial buildings demolished since the war in Surrey, and for information on Surrey Railway Stations; we must improve our present somewhat uneven records. The Industrial Archaeology Committee seek the help of members of the Society who are prepared to join in this work. The idea is to appoint representatives to take over responsibility for recording in each of the District Council areas in Surrey. However, since some Districts (e.g. Waverley) may be too much for one correspondent to cover, we seek to appoint more people in such areas.

It may be that correspondents who are already working for other Committees may feel able to undertake additional work for the Industrial Archaeology Committee—if so, they will be most welcome.

If you can help, please contact Francis Haveron, 5 Hill Court, Ballfield Road, Godalming, GU7 2HD. (Tel. No. Godalming 7325.)

(R. E. Kilsby)

### **Farnham: Middle Church Lane. Mesolithic and Post Medieval Occupation (SU 839467)**

The demolition of a burnt out building at the lower end of Middle Church Lane, just to the east of the Parish Church, gave the Farnham & District Museum Society the opportunity to sample the archaeological potential of this part of the town.

The first structure found appeared to be part of the remains of the hop kiln known from documentary sources to have occupied the site in the early nineteenth century. Beneath this level were the remains of the front of a chalk block building which faced on to the Lane. Preliminary examination of the finds suggests a seventeenth century date. Below this structure a clay floor was found, covered by a layer of ash. Once again, the building appeared to respect the street frontage and the finds would indicate a sixteenth century date for the structure.

A section of the trench was dug down a further 1.2m to the surface of the natural sand. No further finds were made within this layer though a light scatter of ash occurred throughout. A number of mesolithic flakes were, however, found on the surface of the sand layer.

It would therefore seem that occupation in this part of the town, which is subject to flooding and is outside the medieval town ditch, commences in the sixteenth century and has been more or less continuous ever since, with the buildings occupying approximately the same street frontages as they do today; the only exception to this pattern being in the early nineteenth century when part of the site was used for industrial purposes, i.e. the hop kiln. The presence of a scatter of mesolithic material on the base sand layer is not unexpected as it has been noted in several other parts of the town.

Thanks are due to Waverley Council for permission to excavate the site and a full report should appear in the September Newsletter of the Farnham and District Museum Society.

(David Graham)

#### **Lambeth: Vauxhall Pottery Stoneware Factory Excavations (TQ 30357808)**

The excavation of part of the Vauxhall Pottery (c. 1690-1865), begun in July 1977, is still in progress. Some 400m<sup>2</sup> of part of the nineteenth century pottery has been cleared of modern dump by mechanical means. The post-pottery late nineteenth century warehouse system has been uncovered, and, as anticipated from map evidence, showed a range of buildings around an open yard. In the western half of the excavation on removal of warehouse floors and deep demolition rubble from the pottery, extensive and substantially intact floors and wall bases from the final pottery have been revealed. This was the "wet" end of the pottery, the floors found being covered in a smear of raw clay and in a late riverward extension room a side gully drained into two sumps, one of which was still filled with raw potting clay. The main room had a slightly sunken central area and E-W corridor, and work benches appeared to have been ranged along the N wall. The southern limits of the building are inaccessible but, in a partly exposed brick lined sunken area (0.5m below main floor level), a large terminal dump of pure stoneware pottery was found. This consisted of a wide range of mostly utilitarian wares (jars, jugs, bottles, bowls, taps, etc.) and included some three dozen more or less intact vessels. Two of these Singer products had accurate terminus post quem dates—one a locking lid jar with design registered in December 1858; and two, an apparatus for the freezing and cooling of liquids where the Patent specification was issued in July 1860 (Ash's Patent). Added to this an 1860 farthing was found embedded in a re-used kiln tile floor nearby below a thin skin of cement.

Vessel stamps, mostly on wine jugs, indicate that besides supplying the local London market, a definite coastal trade existed (Greenhithe, Ipswich, Brighton, Portsea, Chester) with some vessels going even further afield (Jersey, Adelaide). A vast quantity of kiln materials have been recovered from derived sources (mostly from the pottery demolition rubble) and include a wide variety of refractory bricks. The most common makers' stamps are Prudhoe and Ramsay, plus a few Cowen, and these three all come from the south bank of the River Tyne near Newcastle. However, the penultimate potter at Vauxhall (Wisker) made some of his own (stamped) bricks. Kiln tiles were all made on site and saggars appear not to have been used in the final period.

Cumulative evidence points to further stoneware pottery kilns (additional to those found in 1972) being located in the eastern part of the present excavation. Weekend excavation will probably continue until the end of 1978.

(Roy Edwards)

## ADVANCE NOTICES OF SYMPOSIA

**Saturday, 18th November, 1978**

**Dorking Halls**

**Local History Symposium with theme of "Old Surrey Industries".**

**Saturday, 19th May, 1979**

**Dorking Halls**

**Symposium arranged by the Excavations Committee of the SAS.**

**Excavations from Local Groups of the SAS and from Local Societies will be very much welcomed.**

**(See also report earlier in this Bulletin)**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

**2 p.m. Saturday, 12th August, 1978**

**Old Palace School, Croydon**

**The meeting, which should last for about an hour, will be followed by a tour of the Old Palace and the Parish Church. Tea will be provided.**

## MEETINGS

### JULY

Wednesday 5th, 8 p.m.

**THE WORK OF A COUNTY ARCHIVIST.** Talk by Dr D. A. Robinson to Nonsuch AS in St Mary's Hall, Ewell.

Wednesday 5th, 7.45 p.m.

**J. H. MILLS OF ADDINGTON, A LOCAL HISTORIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGIST EXTRAORDINARY—A MAN OF MANY PARTS.** Talk by Nina Foster to Croydon NH & SS at East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon.

Thursday 20th, 7.45 p.m.

**A TRANSPORT REVOLUTION 175 YEARS AGO—THE SURREY IRON RAILWAY.** Talk by Derek Bayliss to Croydon NH & SS—venue as above.

### AUGUST

Tuesday 8th, 8 p.m.

**TRACING OUR ANCESTRY.** Talk by Mrs M. LeFevre to Egham-by-Runnymede HS at the Literary Institute (1st floor), High Street, Egham.

**Next Bulletin—a joint one for July/August. Following Bulletin—September, for which copy is required by the 5th August.**

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