

SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BULLETIN

Number 161

October 1979

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nominations have been received for election for two of the six Ordinary Members of Council due to retire in 1984 under Article 21a:

Mr A. J. Clark, FSA  
Mrs M. P. Smith

**Change of Address:**

J. S. McCracken, 399A Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15 5QZ.  
Tel.: 01-878 0479.

NOTES AND QUERIES

**Industrial History Group**

The first Industrial History Group report enclosed with this Bulletin introduces to you a new group within the SAS. The Industrial Archaeological Committee has been expanded into a new organisation which will not only cover all previous work but will act as a link with all the other societies in the county which have an industrial bias. It plans to include enthusiasts who perhaps do not yet belong to any specialist society. So far the SAS has produced groups based on geographical locations in Guildford, Godalming, etc. Now it has produced a group devoted to a specialist discipline.

There is only a small extra charge for existing SAS members necessary to cope with the production and postage of our regular Newsletter.

(F. E. Haveron)

**Archaeological Workshop: Recording of Urban and Rural Sites**

Saturday, 10th November 1979, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Committee Room 2,  
Central Library, St. Nicholas Way, Sutton

The Society is again sponsoring an archaeological workshop to be held at the Central Library, Sutton. Following the successful Processing Workshop held 24th March, it was requested that the next Workshop should be concerned with field recording of sites prior to actual excavation. It is expected to discuss such topics as field walking, recording of town sites and the creation of a sites and monuments record. However, participants are free to discuss any problem or technique of field recording that they wish to.

All local societies are invited to send representatives to the workshop and any member of SAS is welcome to attend.

Further details from Dr D. G. Bird, County Planning Department, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, Tel. 546 1050, ext. 3665; or J. S. McCracken, 399A Upper Richmond Road, Putney SW15 5QZ, Tel. 878 0479.

### **Pyrford: St Nicholas Church (TQ 039582)**

#### **The Pyrford Fresco**

Fragments of an unusually early Norman fresco of about 1140 were found in the church of St Nicholas in Pyrford in 1967. This was during the restoration, under the supervision of Dr Eve Baker, of a mural which was then seen to be a painting of about 1200 superimposed on the older fresco. The later painting, in outline, shows the remains of scenes from Our Lord's Passion but the other, in solid colour, is not only remarkably early in date but unusual in subject. It represents a battle scene, or psychomachia, showing the soul's conflict between the forces of good and evil. Its unique feature, however, is a row of seven figures about eight inches high, carrying staves and wearing conical caps and narrow-waisted skirted garments. No other church wall-painting, apparently, has any resemblance to this one in Pyrford.

But similar figures do appear, as Norman soldiers, in church carvings of comparable date in a few places, though we have to go as far afield as Kilpeck and other villages in Herefordshire, and Barfreston in Kent. The question is whether any link with Pyrford can be discovered and the figures identified.

There are various theories as to how the "Herefordshire school" of sculpture originated. The distinguished scholar Professor Zarnecki pointed out that the founder of one of the churches went on pilgrimage to the shrine of St James at Santiago, so may have brought back French craftsmen whose work he had admired en route. The Pyrford figures have the look of pilgrims, and this is what the Professor thought they might be. But he suggested that a more likely connection could have been with the school of Romanesque sculpture based on Reading Abbey in the early twelfth century, from which other places derived ideas and perhaps masons. The manor of Pyrford at that time was owned by Westminster Abbey, by a grant of William the Conqueror, so a connection is not impossible.

Many experts have looked at the fresco during the last 12 years, and this note is written in the hope that at some future date more work may be done and further light shed. Are the figures pilgrims, bound not of course for Canterbury, which became a shrine much later, but for Santiago de Compostela in Spain? Or are they Norman foot soldiers? They do, after all, share the fresco with fighting horsemen. And why do their counterparts occur in a group of churches in Herefordshire, and on a carving found in a field near Monmouth, and almost nowhere else? For the time being, the "little men" of Pyrford keep their secret.

(Sylvia Lewin)

## Results of Field Observations in the Chobham/Pirbright Area

### **Chobham, New England, West End. Possible Barrow (SU 936612)**

On a natural elevation, on the south side of a cutting, and 40 metres west of the bridleway, a mound about 24 metres in diameter.

### **Chobham, Butts Hill, Graciouspond. Enclosure (SU 984637)**

On a small elevation, W of the woodland, W of Graciouspond Farm, an oval enclosure approximately 90 x 50 metres overall, formed by a low bank 3 metres broad, and traces of a shallow ditch. The interior is disturbed by quarrying, and is crossed by a ditch.

### **Blackheath. Possible barrow remains (TQ 039462)**

On an elevation on the line of the bridleway, S of the easternmost house in Greyfriars, the remains of a possible barrow, evident as a partial mound on the W, and a low bank on the E, with traces of a shallow ditch round, 22 metres diameter.

### **Pirbright, Tunnel Hill. Earthworks (SU 911551)**

Within 10 metres on the NE side of the parish boundary ditch, for 45 metres, a bank 6 to 7 metres broad. Nearly parallel to this, at an interval of 135 metres to NE, a bank up to 9 metres broad, extant for 60 metres.

### **Pirbright, Gapemouth. Possible barrow, remains (SU 915558)**

On a small hill on NW side of railway line, an oval enclosure, probably a tree ring, containing a few birch trees, the locality of which has been mutilated by military trenchworks. The enclosure measures 32 x 25 metres over a 2-metre bank. At the SW end is a mound 22 metres diameter, 1.5 metres high, which has been partly robbed. A sarsen stone, split in three, lies on the east side, partly on the slope of the mound.

### **Pirbright/Deepcut. Enclosure (SU 907560)**

At the edge of the escarpment overlooking Gapemouth Road, at the meeting of two tracks, in an area of recently felled plantation, a small bank and ditch enclosure, similar to the above, possibly constructed as a tree ring. It measures 26 x 19 metres over a 2-metre bank formed from the upcast of a shallow outer ditch.

### **Pirbright, Longdown Hill. Military Earthwork (SU 914554)**

On the club-shaped terminal of the ridge, an area 85 x 50 metres is contained within a massive bank, constructed from an internal ditch. Possibly an 18th-19th century military practice work.

(Thomas C. Welsh)

### **Bulk Purchasing**

Members requiring plastic bags, polythene sheeting (black) or films should contact the Hon. Secretary at 10 Hurstleigh Drive, Redhill.

## **Metal Detectors**

The National Trust is trying to prevent treasure hunting. Its report for 1978 states "Those found using detectors (on N.T. open spaces) will be treated as trespassers and any who dig the surface of the Trust's property will also be in breach of the bye-laws".

## **Report on Coalbrookdale exhibition in London**

Under the title "A View from the Iron Bridge", the Royal Academy's exhibition celebrates the Bicentenary of the building of the world's first iron bridge, in 1779. Organised by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, the exhibition looks at the spectacular iron industry which developed in the Coalbrookdale area of Shropshire and its impact on the rural landscape, and on other areas. It includes commemorative ceramics, glass and early cast iron product. A special feature is the vast number of paintings, drawings and engravings of the Bridge itself, and of the furnaces, as interpreted by many different artists, including Turner and Cotman. The exhibition is open daily up to 18th November at a normal admission fee of 90p.

(H. G. Singleton)

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

It is felt that members may be interested in the variety of work which is being done by groups and individuals throughout the county, much of which is never brought to the notice of the Society as a whole. This Section will cover research, field observations and digs which produce nothing as well as those for which official reports will appear later. It is not intended to take the place of Notes for the Bulletin. Most of this information is gleaned from Newsletters of local groups, but the Hon. Bulletin Editor would be pleased to hear about any snippet of news about work being done which would not normally qualify for inclusion in Notes and Queries.

### **Bourne Society**

Examination of footings of a house at the corner of Shepherd's Hill and Dean Lane near Alderstead Heath which have recently been exposed by agricultural clearance has produced dating material from 18th to early 20th centuries.

Work continues at Bletchingley Castle under Denis Turner.

### **Farnham and District Museum Society**

A search for the Town Ditch of Farnham behind 20-21 Borough High Street on weekend 30th June/1st July proved negative but some 17/18th century levels were found. Director: David Graham.

Examination of aerial photographs at County Hall has revealed a new field system site NE of Frensham Little Pond.

### **Leatherhead and District Local History Society**

The new Leatherhead Museum has now opened at Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead. Admission free on Saturdays, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

A Leatherhead History is being compiled. Groups of researchers have already begun work on various periods of the town's history.

### **Nonsuch Antiquarian Society**

Excavations behind the Museum (Whitehall), Cheam, continues during weekends. (Reported in Bulletin No. 157.) Director: Norman Nail.

### **Send History Society**

The Buildings Group have been inspecting farm barns and learning much about the construction of timber framed buildings.

### **Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group**

Excavation has been going on at London Airport under S. Dyer where crop marks showed possibility of early habitation

Rescue excavation of an interesting site is taking place on the site of Johnson and Clark's Extension, Market Square, Staines, directed by Kevin Crouch. Good medieval and 17th century material has been found.

### **Sutton Park**

Excavation has commenced under Dr D. Bird. This is a training dig. (Reported in Bulletin No. 158.)

### **Stanwell**

Excavation started on 3rd September on a site in two fields to the north of Park Road where crop marks indicated a wide Roman road and early occupation back to prehistoric times. This is directed by Martin O'Connell, Surrey County Archaeologist. (Reported in Bulletin No. 158.)

### **Reigate Old Vicarage**

Excavation continues on this site under R. Poulton for the County Archaeological Unit. (Reported in Bulletin No. 157.)

R. Steel of Godalming has completed an undergraduate project on **Roman Villas in the county**. A copy has been placed in the Library at Castle Arch.

### **Wanborough**

Excavation by M. O'Connell and R. Poulton has identified a well-constructed Roman period building.

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

### **The Warlingham Flints**

Work is being done on the very fine flints deposited in the Warlingham Museum, now loaned to the prospective East Surrey Museum. Unfortunately most of those artifacts have no record of when they were found or by whom. They are all described as "local". Any information would be gratefully received by Lesley Ketteringham for the East Surrey Museum at 14 Court Road, Godstone RH9 8BT.

## PUBLICATIONS

Recent accessions to the Society's Library  
(previous list in *Bulletin* No. 156, April/May 1979)

### 1. GENERAL

- Ashbee, P. *The Ancient British*, 1978.  
Bennison, G. M., and Wright, A. E. *The Geological History of the British Isles* 1969.  
Boddington, A. *The Excavation Record, Part I—stratification* 1978.  
Briard, J. *The Bronze Age in Barbarian Europe* 1979.  
British Library Research and Development Department. *Problems of information handling in Archaeology* 1977.  
Cobbett, W. *Cottage Economy* 1926.  
Cunliffe, B. *Iron Age Communities in Britain* 2nd edn. 1978.  
Cunnington, R. H. *From antiquary to archaeologist* 1975.  
Davey, P. ed. *The Archaeology of the clay tobacco pipe 1—Britain, the Midlands and Eastern England* 1979.  
Fleming, S. J. *Authenticity in Art, the scientific detection of forgery* 1975.  
Goeder, E. A. *Latin for local history* 2nd edn. 1978.  
Hogg, A. H. A. *British Hill Forts, an index* 1979.  
Hoskins, W. G. *English landscapes* 1973.  
Langmaid, N. G. *Bronze Age Metalwork in England and Wales*, 1976.  
Liversidge, J. *Furniture in Roman Britain*, 1955.  
Pitts, L. F. *Roman bronze figurines from the civitates of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes* 1979.  
Publications of the English Record Societies and Index Library 1978.  
Ramm, H. *The Parisi* 1978.  
Rowley, T. *Villages in the landscape* 1978.  
Scullard, H. H. *Roman Britain* 1979 .  
Steane, J. M., and Dix, B. F. *Peopling past landscapes* 1978.  
Swan, V. G. *Pottery in Roman Britain* 2nd edn. 1978.  
Timms, P. *Flint implements of the Old Stone Age* 1974.  
Tylecote, R. F. *A History of Metallurgy* 1976.  
Wood, E. S. *Collins field guide to archaeology in Britain* 5th edn. 1979.

### 2. LOCAL, EXCLUDING SURREY

- Astill, G. G. *Historic towns in Berkshire, an archaeological reappraisal*, 1978.  
Barton, K. J. *Medieval Sussex pottery* 1979.  
Harvey, J. *York* 1975.  
Laing, L. *Ancient Scotland, a guide to the remains* 1976.  
Millman, R. N. *The making of the Scottish landscape*, 1975.  
Pettit, P. *Prehistoric Dartmoor—1974*.  
Potter T. W. *Romans in North West England* 1979.  
Rankilor, P. R. *British palaeography; an introduction* 1972.  
Richards, J. C. *The Archaeology of the Berkshire downs, an introductory survey* 1978.  
Williams, M. *The making of the South Wales landscape* 1975.

### 3. SURREY—GENERAL

- Christophers, R. A.** Social and Educational background of the Surrey Clergy 1520-1620 (Photocopy of Phd thesis).  
**Surrey County Council.** Accessions of Records 1977, 1979. Surrey Record Office.  
**Surrey Record Society.** Deposition book of Richard Wyatt, JP, 1767-1777. 1978.  
**Surrey Record Society.** The 1235 Surrey Eyre Vol. 1. 1978.  
**Vulliamy, L.** William Cobbett's rural rides revisited. A photographic exploration 1977.

### 4. SURREY—LOCAL

- Bott, A.** A guide to the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Godalming. 1978.  
**Bradley, Cynthia,** Whitehall, Cheam 1978.  
**Bray, Sir Jocelyn.** Reminiscences 1959.  
**Clark, A. J.** The decline of water-powered industries in the Upper Wey basin. B.A. Geography project—photocopy.  
**Hooper, W.** Reigate, its story through the ages. Facsimile reprint 1979.  
**Hutchings, G. E.** The book of Box Hill, rev. edn. 1969.  
**King Edward's School General Studies Group.** Record of monumental inscriptions in Witley Church, 1979.  
**Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society.** Picton House and the people connected with it. 1979.  
**Milward, R., and Walsh, M.** Portrait of a Parish, Jesuits in Wimbledon 1877-1977. 1977.  
**Newbery, Celia.** Vaughan Williams in Dorking 1979.  
**Pageant of Guildford.** Shalford Park 1957. Official programme 1957.  
**Poulton, R., and Alexander, M.** Guildford's Dominican Friary, recent excavations 1979.  
**Southwark Excavations 1972-74.** 2 vols. 1979.  
1978. Walton and Weybridge Local History Society Monograph No. 27.  
**Stonebanks, John A.** Royal Associations of Walton and Weybridge 1857-1978.

### CORRECTION

- Bulletin 158 p.4** gives an out of date address for University Microfilms Ltd.  
Their present address for sales enquiries is:  
18 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ.  
We apologise to members for any inconvenience caused.

“Lambeth's Open Spaces; an historical account” by Marie P. G. Draper. Published by The London Borough of Lambeth—Amenity Services. Price £3.00 (plus 50p p. and p.). Order from the Director of Amenity Services, London Borough of Lambeth, 91 Clapham High Street, SW4.

#### Reprint of Hooper's Reigate

**Reigate: its story through the ages**, by Wilfrid Hooper, published as a monograph by the Society in 1945, has been out of print for some time. It has now been reprinted in facsimile by Kohler and Coombs and is obtainable from booksellers, price £5.90.

## MEETINGS

### NOVEMBER

Saturday, 3rd, at 2.30 p.m.

**FARM BUILDINGS.** Talk by Richard Harris to the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) at The Friends' Meeting House (Quakers), South Street, Dorking. Parking behind Sainsbury's. All welcome.

### DECEMBER

Monday, 17th, at 8.00 p.m.

**THE SPELTHORNE STORY FROM BC TO BOAC.** Talk by Vernon Gosling to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group at the Debenham Room, Town Hall, Market Square, Staines. All welcome.

## SPECIALIST COURSES

In response to our request for information about Specialist Courses in **Bulletin 158**, we have received the following details of some interesting courses to be run by the University of Leicester at Kingston Hall Residential College for Adult Education during the coming season.

**Environmental Archaeology.** A residential weekend course from Friday 30th November to Sunday 2nd December. This course will consider some of the different kinds of evidence and methods of study, together with selected reconstructions. Subjects will include organic material, plant remains, snails and insects, bones and leather, soils and sediments. Tutor: Myra Shackley, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Leicester. Fee £15 (full residential).

**Farming in the Iron Age.** A residential weekend course from Friday 7th March to Sunday 9th March. This course is designed to introduce students to the role and importance of experiment in archaeology. The main emphasis will be placed upon the Iron Age period. Tutor: Dr P. J. Reynolds (Butser Ancient Farm Research Project). Fee £16 (full residential).

**Field Archaeology and the Landscape.** A six-day residential course from Friday 28th March to Thursday 3rd April. This course will concentrate on field surveying and the recovery of information about sites of all periods, including the use of maps and historical documents. Most of the work will be in the field recording sites simple surveying techniques, including tapes and levels. Tutors: A. E. Brown, University of Leicester, and C. C. Taylor of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. Fee £45.00 (full residential).

**The English Abbey.** A residential weekend course from Friday 2nd May to Sunday 4th May. This course will consider not only the architectural aspects of the English Abbey but also the kind of life which went on within its walls. It includes visits to sites by coach for which there will be a surcharge. Tutors: Prof. G. H. Martin and Prof. R. B. Dobson of the Depts. of History, Universities of Leicester and York; Dr D. T. Williams, University of Leicester. Fee £15 (full residential).

Applicants to: The Principal, Knuston Hall, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants NN9 7EU.—with full fee.

Next **Bulletin** November, for which copy is required by 6th October. Following **Bulletin** December, for which copy is required by 6th November.