

SURREY
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EXCAVATION NOTICE

Reigate: Old Vicarage Site (TQ25705036)

(Director: David Williams)

This rescue excavation has been granted an extension until June 1st 1980 and thus will be continuing on Sundays. This extra time should enable us to obtain a complete plan of the medieval extension. Help is needed throughout the winter and volunteers may contact the director on site or during the day on 01-223 3431.

New Members from November 1979

Mr M. Reeve, 14 Lyndhurst Avenue, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, TW16 6OY.

Mr M. J. Ecclestone, 24 Dene Road, Guildford, GU1 4DD.

Mr F. A. Hastings, B.E.M., 89 Cheshire Gardens, Chessington, KT9 2PT.

Mr J. P. Somerville, 18 Ganhill, Guildford, GU1 1XE.

Junior Members

Mr I. J. Williams, Bisney Cottage, Shamley Green, Guildford, GU5 0TB.

Miss S. J. Cook, 24 Grange Road, Stoughton, Guildford, GU2 6PY.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Box Hill: Roman Coins. TQ 179 519

A group of Roman coins was recently brought to Guildford Museum by Mr Dodge, the finder, for identification. They were nine bronze folles of Diocletian, Maximian and Constantius I, dating overall A.D. 286-310. The close date range and good condition of the coins suggest that the group was lost (e.g. from a purse) or hidden in a hoard early in the fourth century. They have been identified by Mrs Jenny Hall of the Museum of London, and her full report is held at Guildford Museum. The coins have since been returned to the finder.

Mary Alexander and Joanna Bird

Egham: 6/7 The Avenue (TQ 0157 7167)

The site lies on flood plain gravel, about 400 metres to the west of the River Thames and in an area which has produced evidence of intensive

occupation in the Late Bronze Age. Accordingly in August 1979 an apparently undisturbed part of the site was investigated in advance of a major redevelopment scheme. Unfortunately the earliest evidence of occupation consisted only of a series of layers containing 18th or 19th century pottery and building debris representing an accumulation of material in a post-medieval feature that extended beyond the limits of the excavated area and therefore was undefined. Later features included two shallow 19th century pits and a gravel path.

M. G. O'Connell

Guildford: 72/74 High Street. Medieval Site (SU 9967 4943)

72/74 High Street is an early 19th century building overlying a 13th century undercroft. The alteration of the premises for use as office accommodation by the Halifax Building Society included the rebuilding of the front wall, which was structurally unsound, upon deeper foundations. Permission was given by the contractors, Caesar Bros., for a watching brief to take place when the new foundation trench was excavated at the front of the building in July 1979. The trench exposed part of the original frontage of the undercroft and cut through the steps which would have led directly from the premises to the High Street in the 13th century. The frontage and steps had both been badly damaged when the 19th century building had been erected although enough had survived to indicate that the frontage would have extended below the medieval street level and have consisted of large chalk blocks. One block of flint was noted but there was insufficient evidence to be certain of an original chequer work construction of alternating chalk and flint. At least two of the medieval steps had been removed during the 19th century rebuilding while those that remained had been repaired or reconstructed with brick.

M. G. O'Connell

Reigate: Old Vicarage, Church Street. (Post-Norman periods) TQ 257 503
The following is intended as a summary of work so far.

The hall and crosswing have now been completely excavated and the recovered plan correlates well with an anonymous undated drawing. The watercolour by Hassall seems to be incorrect in showing projecting wings on the frontage.

In general, the remains were well preserved beneath a spread of demolition rubble and lay from 6 to 60 cm below the surface of the later garden.

C.1150-C.1300

Over the remains of an earlier settlement site (excavated by Rob Poulton last summer) the first hall house, measuring internally 15.2m by 7.2m approx. was erected. This lay on an EW axis and was bounded on the E by a 1.2m deep ditch. The plan consisted of 3 rooms of similar size, the centre one a hall with a rectangular hearth, possibly separated from the western room by a cross passage. The floor was of yellow clay, but little survived of the original walls. There is some evidence that the hall was originally aisled, possible post positions occur 2.5m apart on both partitions. Few finds can be confidently associated with this building which cannot be closely dated. There is a notable scarcity of 13th century pottery on the site, though this does occur, and a period of inactivity may be represented by an enigmatic trench dug across the eastern room from wall to wall.

C.1300-1350

The original hall was completely remodelled in the 14th century by the addition of an extra eastern bay, a crosswing and a substantial rear extension. The east bay was added first but it is uncertain whether crosswing and extension were built concurrently.

The narrow c.2m, east bay was added over the, by now, silted up ditch and the partition east of the hall removed. The new bay was separated from the lengthened hall by a cross passage and consisted of north and south rooms floored with earth and grey clay respectively. The upper fill of the ditch contained a few small fragments of manganese glass of 13th century Syrian origin.

The crosswing overlay the west room of the original house and projected beyond it to the south. It originally consisted of two rooms, the larger floored with clay, the smaller, earth, the partition continuing the line of the original south wall. The crosswing was about 4.5m wide.

The new clay floor sealed a worn penny of Edward I. Little is as yet known of the rear extension, which seems to have almost doubled the width of the hall. The screens passage was moved to a position adjacent to the crosswing in the position shown on the 2 drawings. A larger room was thus created at the upper end of the hall and projecting eastwards from this a substantial ashlar faced foundation approx. 2.5m square was built. This may have been a stair turret or garderobe tower.

Pottery was recovered from most layers belonging to the 14th century re-building although most of it was plain and fragmentary. It was particularly frequent in the south of the crosswing, in soil build-up in the east of the house and in a rubbish spread beneath the later rear extension. Painted window glass was recovered from outside the front wall and evidence of roof fittings was found in the shape of glazed ridge tiles and fragments of a ventilator and finial. A complete miniature jug or cruet was found beneath the crosswing. Other finds include an undecorated floor tile, a spindle whorl, whetstones and a few small bronze objects.

C.1350-1500

Few surviving structures can be attributed to this period. A compact gravel floor was laid in the south of the crosswing extending well into the rear partition. A demolished kitchen range in the crosswing was indicated by a straight sided hollow stretching from wall to wall, containing 17th century material. Above the gravel, various layers had accumulated, some containing kitchen refuse including many shells. The topmost layer contained a worn medieval penny.

16th Century

Much of the Vicarage must have been given floors of boards or flagstones in this period as few finds survive within. Three chimneys were located, one at the east end of the hall, heating the end room and two projecting from the west wall of the crosswing. Between these latter was a large 1.2m square cesspit with stone-lined walls, which is still being excavated.

C.1600-1847

A considerable number of alterations were made at the Vicarage during its last 250 years. Within the crosswing the presumed kitchen range was altered and demolished in the 17th century. A complete bellmarine of c.1600 was deposited, probably beneath a wooden floor. The eastern room was divided

by an east-west partition in the 17th century and part floored with brown clay. There is no evidence of the later history of the hall, however—the old medieval hearth was found directly beneath the demolition rubble.

A substantial eastern extension was built; the stone 'tower' was demolished and two rooms on different levels survive with steps to the lower, and a brick and stone soakaway in the upper. Two rectangular stone-lined pits lay outside the crosswing but contained little and were also probably soakaways.

The medieval rear extension seems to have been demolished in the 18th century, the floor raised with dumped topsoil and a new outshot built, of which nothing survives. A 7.5m x 2.9m brick-floored cellar caused great damage to the early remains.

The Vicarage as Hassall shows was gothicised in the late 18th century and the front wall was completely rebuilt. The latest addition was the three sided bay window added to the crosswing in the early 19th century. The Vicarage was demolished in 1847, the site was covered with a variable layer of demolition rubble. Included in the rubble backfill of the collar were many fragments of painted Reigate stone statues, some depicting angels with shields. Other devices also occurred e.g. portions of blind tracery. The statues are probably of 17th or 18th century date.

Consequent to the demolition a number of rubbish and drainage pits were dug through the remains. These belonged to the Victorian Vicarage and damage was mostly confined to the east of the hall. One is worthy of mention for among the Victorian rubbish were found an earthenware jar and a lid. The jar appears Roman, though it is probably not British—the lid is not British either and is anybody's guess!

Carved Stones

A number of architectural fragments have been found re-used within the Vicarage, mostly from 16th century contexts. These include pieces of half-attached columns, a larger column base with a diamond in relief and an arch voussoir with fluted mouldings. It is very likely that these came from the castle.

Islamic Glass

Five fragments of manganese glass were recovered from the upper silting of the ditch in a 14th century context. One is decorated with enamelling and traces of gilding. They have been identified as having been part of an Islamic vessel of 13th century date, probably made in Syria. The form of the vessel is uncertain as none of the pieces is of base or rim.

The 'Cruet'

A miniature jug or cruet was found within the crosswing, it is 78mm high and has a girth diameter of 68mm. The jug is complete and was probably buried deliberately. It has a rod handle and a finger-impressed base and is covered with a yellow-green glaze over a cream slip, decorated with random sgraffito zig-zags. A small number of similar diminutive jugs have been found in Britain (although of different form) and it has been suggested that they were used as cruets for distributing water and wine to the clergy during Mass.

David Williams

Reigate: Old Vicarage, Church Street. (pre-Norman periods) TQ 257 503

A full time excavation on the Reigate Old Vicarage site took place in September and October 1979. This was organised by the County Archaeological Unit in conjunction with the Reigate and Banstead Archaeological Co-ordination Committee. The work was financed by DOE and Reigate Borough Council. It followed upon work by the Holmesdale Archaeological Group assisted by the Bourne Society Archaeological Group under David Williams.

Work concentrated on the Saxo-Norman levels underlying the medieval hall house (Bulletin 151). Three major elements amongst these were distinguished. Firstly, over most of the area excavated a dark layer containing plentiful pottery was observed. This represented a levelling up of the site for the medieval building. Secondly, beneath this layer a series of rubbish pits, containing principally shell tempered pottery and animal bone, were excavated. Thirdly, the discovery of a number of post holes, a gully and two areas of heavy burning is suggestive of minor industrial working.

Other periods were represented by finds of Mesolithic flints, Roman tiles (re-used in the Saxo-Norman period) and possibly by a ditch whose fill was heavily leached by comparison with clearly Saxo-Norman features but produced no diagnostic material.

The area may be defined as the backlands to a Saxo-Norman settlement which lies closer to the church.

R. J. Poulton

Stanwell/Heathrow: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Occupation (TQ 053 745)

A large scale excavation took place at Stanwell between 3 September and 16 November 1979. The site was defined from a series of crop-marks seen on aerial photographs of a large field to the west of Stanwell Village and to the south of Heathrow Airport. A trial trench excavated by Rob Poulton in December 1977 (Bulletin 146) indicated the existence of a number of features not visible on the aerial photograph and the possibility of undisturbed occupation deposits. Prior to gravel extraction from the north-west corner of the field, an area of 2,080 square metres was stripped of topsoil by machine although excavation was later restricted to 1,092 square metres due to lack of manpower. Features examined included two shallow parallel ditches defining a prehistoric trackway, which formed part of a celtic field system detected from the air, and the remains of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hut with associated pits truncated by modern plough damage. No clear relationship was established between the trackway and the hut but the fabric of the pottery found in both was of a similar type. Later evidence of occupation was attested by a Romano-British ditch and palisade trench possibly separated by a trackway while a section of a post-medieval ditch was also investigated.

M. J. O'Connell

Wanborough: Green Lane. Romano-British building. (SU 920 495)

In June 1979 a trial trench was opened on a footpath known as Green Lane, to verify the existence of a Romano-British building suspected as the result of earlier field-work by Felix Holling (Bulletin 49). The site lies on London clay to the north of the chalk outcrop of the Hog's Back in an area that has produced evidence of scattered Romano-British settlement. A gently curving flint wall was defined accompanied by an eaves drip trench which

together may have formed part of an apsidal room or a small section of a circular structure. A single layer of flint and gravel embedded in the clay was discovered outside this building and could be interpreted as the remains of a yard or path. Provisional examination of the finds suggest a date in the late 2nd or early 3rd century for the occupation of the site.

M. J. O'Connell

S.A.S. Library Exhibition

At the Surrey Local History Symposium, held at the Dorking Halls, on Saturday, December 1st, 1979, the Library mounted its first ever display on behalf of the Society.

The subject of the Symposium being "Surrey Waterways", we chose a selection of prints on this theme from the Society's large collection of illustrations.

These were photographed for us by Mr John Baker, and were arranged, and matched with reproductions from relevant parts of maps from our collection of the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" series.

General information on the Library and its services also included, together with photographs of the Margary Room, taken by Miss J. A. Cowie, and presented to the library by the Guildford Group of the Society.

A short title list of periodicals currently received by the library was produced for distribution at the Symposium, and copies are still available to members, price 2p on application to the Assistant Librarian at Castle Arch Officers of the Society, and members of its committees, may claim a copy free of charge!

Gillian Drew and Pat Ashworth

Woodmansterne: Discoidal Flint Knife. (TQ 274609)

A fine edge-ground flint knife of late Neolithic date was found by Mr Andrew J. Compton (in whose possession it remains) in 1968 or 1969, on ploughland close to the outbuildings of Oaks Farm, Woodmansterne (TQ 274609). A trench for a North Sea Gas pipeline had been cut through the area prior to the discovery, and it seems likely that the implement was disturbed by this work.

Measuring 75 x 67mm, the knife conforms to Class I of Clark's typology (*Proc. Prehist. Soc. E Anglia* 6 (1928-29), 41-54), being almost circular in form. It is made of an attractively banded blue-grey flint, with the characteristic shallow flaking over both faces, and with the edge ground and polished all the way round.

This find can be added to a number of other flint artefacts already known from the locality, for Johnson and Wright mention the discovery of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic implements in the areas of Woodmansterne and Woodcote in their *Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey*, published in 1903, while Lowther recorded Mesolithic and Neolithic or Bronze Age flintwork during his excavations in the grounds of Queen Mary's Hospital in 1937 and 1939 (*Sy. A. C.* 49 (1946), 56-74). Further concentrations of worked flint were recovered from Oaks Park and from several sites in Woodmansterne during Operation Pipeline in 1968 (*Sy. A. Soc. Bull.* December 1968), while more recently an impressive collection of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts has been picked up from the surface of a field near Little Woodcote (*Sy. A. Sec. Bull.* May 1970).

Thanks are due to the finder for allowing the implement to be placed on record, and to Tom Walls for bringing it to the writer's attention. It is hoped to prepare a fuller account in due course.

Jonathan Cotton

WORK IN PROGRESS

Modern, Church of St. Lawrence

It is over eight years since an article appeared in the Bulletin (No. 82, Oct. 1971) in which the writer reported on the clearance of monuments in the churchyard, the recording of inscriptions and the research being carried out. Also the request by the P.C.C. for information prior to the reprint of the church booklet.

Since then about two-thirds of the churchyard has been cleared of surplus monuments and no further work is intended for some time. It has been possible to restore some monuments at the request of relatives, also new headstones and tablets have appeared incorporating up-to-date inscriptions on family graves. The spoil from new cremation burials and re-opening of family graves is examined for any useful finds (pottery reported in Bulletin No. 153, Jan. 1979), and it is clear the eastern boundary facing the main road was extended at some time past, the tree line is several metres in from the fence.

Information on family histories has been forthcoming from relatives. Although the P.C.C. has not published a reprint of the church booklet the research continues to produce surprises and the writer was commissioned by the new rector to provide a revised edition. This should be ready early in 1980.

(W. J. Rudd)

The Esher District Local History Society

This Society is setting up a research project, a Survey of the Local Newspapers for the last 100 years.

SAS PUBLICATIONS

It is hoped that **Research Volume No 7** and the cumulative **Index to Volumes 61-70 of the Collections** will be ready in January 1980. They will be distributed to all fully paid-up members.

Research Volume No 7 consists of two reports of excavations in Southwark: 199 Borough High Street (1962), by D. J. Turner and Guy's Hospital (1967), by G. J. Dawson.

Research Volume No 6, the report on the excavations at Runnymede Bridge, is in active preparation, but will not be ready until later in 1980.

Volume 72 of the **Collections** is also in active preparation and should appear in the summer of 1980.

New Publications

"The Church of St. James, Weybridge: Monumental Inscriptions" by J. W. Lindus Forge and J. S. L. Pulford. 75 pages. Price 90p from The Secretary, Walton and Weybridge Local History Society, 67 York Gardens, Walton-on-Thames.

COURSES

Saturday 19th April at the University of Surrey

The Borders Ceramic Research Group will be holding a symposium "Saxon and Early Medieval wares in Central Southern England" at the University

of Surrey in Lecture Theatre E in the Central Lecture Building. The ten lectures will include the following subjects: Winchester ware, Imported Saxon wares, Saxon pottery in south Hampshire, Saxon and early medieval pottery from London and Saxon to early medieval ceramics from Buckinghamshire.

Admission £3.00 (without lunch but including tea and coffee). Lunch £2.00 extra payable at latest a fortnight in advance. Information from F. Holling, Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 43SX.

MEETINGS

MARCH

Monday 10th

Excavations at Brentford and/or West Drayton. Talk by John Cotton to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group in the Debenham Room, Town Hall, Market Square, Staines at 8.00 p.m.

Friday 28th

Recent Excavations at Staines. Talk by Kevin Crouch to the Richmond Society at the Sun Inn, Parkshot, Richmond (opposite Richmond Adult Education College) at 8.00 p.m.

APRIL

Progress on Excavations at Stanwell. Talk by Martin O'Connell to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group in the Debenham Room, Town Hall, Market Square, Staines at 8.00 p.m.

MAY

Saturday 10th-11th

"The Tillingbourne and its History". A week-end conference on this theme will be held at the University of Surrey. The Saturday programme will include: The Historic Landscape (Peter Brandon); Documentary Sources (Shirley Corke); Domestic Buildings (Joan Harding); Geophysical Surveys (Tony Clark); Watermills (Alan Crocker); Educational Fieldwork (Alan Craig). There will be a guided tour on the Sunday. Further details will be given in future Bulletins and may also be obtained from the Department of Adult Education, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH.

Next **Bulletin** will be March, for which copy is required by February 6th. It is possible that we may have to change the number of Bulletins to be published each year in view of rising costs, in which case you will be advised as soon as possible.

Honorary Bulletin Editor