



SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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BULLETIN

Number 215

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL LECTURE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Incorporated Surrey Archaeological Society will be held at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday November 22nd in the Central Lecture Theatre Block at the University of Surrey, Guildford. There is an adjacent car park (No. 1 East).

Agenda for Annual General Meeting

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To read, and if appropriate to sign as correct, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 23rd 1985.
3. To receive and consider the Annual Report, the Statement of Accounts, and the auditor's report for the year to March 31st 1986, and if approved, to adopt them.
4. To elect the President for the year 1986-1987.
The Viscountess Hanworth is nominated for re-election by the Council.
5. To elect Honorary Vice-Presidents for 1986-87.
6. To elect Vice-Presidents for 1986-87.
7. To elect Honorary officers for 1986-87.
The following nominations are made by Council:
Joint Secretaries: Dr. J. L. and Mrs. M. Gower.
Treasurer: A. C. Sargent, FCA with a vote of thanks to L. F. Guillem, FCA.
Editor: The Viscountess Hanworth.
Assistant Editor: Mrs. J. L. Bird.
Librarian: Miss G. M. Drew.
Editor of the Bulletin: Miss E. P. Humphreys.
Legal Adviser: S. E. D. Fortescue.
8. To elect six ordinary members of Council to retire in 1990 under Article 21a.

The following nominations have been received: Mrs. P. Nicolaysen proposed by Mr. F. Hastings and seconded by Mr. D. Field; Mr. D. C. Taylor proposed by Mr. T. E. C. Walker and seconded by Mr. E. A. Crossland.

The following nominations are made by Council: Mrs. V. Ettliger, Mr. C. S. S. Lyon, Dr. D. B. Robinson, Mr. D. W. Williams.

Nominations for election under items 4-8 should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries not less than seven days before the meeting. All nominations require a proposer and a seconder who must be members of the Incorporated Society and nominations must be accompanied by a signed statement by the nominee of his or her willingness to stand for election. Institutional members are not eligible for election.

9. To appoint the Honorary Auditor for 1986-87. The following nomination has been received: Roffe Swayne & Co. proposed by Miss E. M. Myatt-Price and seconded by Mr. J. W. Wakely.
10. Any other business.

Following the AGM, a lecture entitled *The Roman Army in Britain* will be given by Professor Sheppard Frere, CBE, MA, DLitt, FBA, FSA, Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

Honorary Local Secretaries

The following appointments have recently been made:

Ash, Pirbright, Normandy & Worplesdon: Mr. D. J. Matthias, 1 Red Leys, Glaziers Lane, Normandy, Guildford GU3 2DF.

Bramley & Womersley: Mr. R. W. Williams, 20 The Glebe, Shalford Road, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8BL.

(Ms. J. English remains as Local Secretary for Alfold, Cranleigh, Dunsfold & Ewhurst).

Mr. L. H. Sidwell has retired as Local Secretary for Effingham, the Horsleys & the Clandons and the Council of the Society wishes to thank him for serving as the Society's representative in this area for the past sixteen years.

Honorary Local Secretaries are also needed for: (1) the parishes of Busbridge, Chiddingfold, Hambledon, Hascombe & Witley; and (2) for the parishes of Capel, Holmwood, Newdigate and Ockley. The Hon. Secretaries would be very pleased to hear from any members in the above areas who would like to take over as Local Secretary, and further details can be obtained from them.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

From August, 1986: Miss E. F. Jones, 42 Daryngton Drive, Merrow, Guildford GU1 2QD; Mr. C. F. Tye, Greencroft Cottage, Hextalls Lane, Bletchingley, RH1 4QT; Mr. A. Harton, 27a Lucas Close, Yateley, Camberley GU17 7JD; Ms. S. A. Butcher, Quarry House, Wix Hill, West Horsley, Surrey KT24 6EE.

From September, 1986: Mr. B. Cordrey, Green Place, Womersley GU5 0PF; Mr. E. J. Stell, c/o 13 Albury Road, Guildford GU1 2BZ; Miss M. M. Baigent, 34 High Street, Old Woking GU22 9ER; Mr. J. Mould, 38 Selwood Road, Old Woking, Woking GU22 9HT; Mr. F. N. Phillipson, 99 Horseshoe Lane East, Merrow, Guildford GU1 2TW; Mrs. A. H. Evans and Miss S. C. Evans, East Lodge, Park Hatch, Loxhill, Godalming GU8 4BL.

The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540

We are pleased to be able to say that, although the production of this book has been long drawn out, the end is now in sight. Unfortunately it has taken time to iron out problems with some of the texts (including persuading the authors to part with them!), but we feel that the end result will justify the time taken. The book will be greatly enhanced by work on the illustrations currently being undertaken by David Williams, by an index to be prepared by Fred Hastings and by a dedication to Mr. Margary by Eric Wood. It is intended that Margary's great generosity to the Society will be commemorated by the publication of this volume.

If all goes well the book should appear by March next year. It may be as well to stress that the texts were prepared separately from the lectures at the University conference, and although they obviously relate closely to what was said, there need be no fear that they have now become out of date.

Joanna Bird
David Bird

Excavations Committee Annual Symposium

Saturday 21 February, 1987 in the Dorking Halls, Dorking

The programme for the 1987 Symposium organised by the Society's Excavations Committee for all Surrey archaeologists is now largely complete. As usual, the talks will start at 10.30 a.m. and close around 4.00 p.m., with a break for lunch from 12.40 to 2.00 p.m. and for tea in mid afternoon.

Mrs. Elizabeth Eames has kindly agreed to chair the meeting. There will be talks by Nicholas Riall on the Farnham tile kiln (found in recent excavations in the town centre and dated to around A.D. 1200); by Geoffrey Cole on the work of the Surrey Heath Group (impressive recent finds dating from Iron Age onwards, changing our understanding of this neglected area); by Paul Larkin on recent finds in the Shepperton/Chertsey area (including the unique LBA axe and complete Iron Age weapons); by Rob Poulton on excavations at the former Goblin Works, Leatherhead (a 'new' Anglo-Saxon cemetery); by Paul Sowan on the Merstham/Chaldon stone mines (a remarkable underground survey of workings probably of medieval date); and by Jon Cotton on recent work on the West Middlesex gravels (important results of recent excavations including unique items of preserved Romano-British timberwork).

A major part of the Symposium will be, as usual, the exhibits of current work by local groups, and the opportunity to meet like-minded people and discuss mutual problems and interests. Forms for the booking of display space will be circulated in the usual way, or simply contact the writer (at County Hall on 01-541 9419); before the end of January please.

The revised arrangements for the Margary Award worked very well last year, and the Committee is keen to see a similar response in 1987. Remember that the Award is now made for the best display, with first and second prizes of £50 and £25. Details can be checked with the writer if necessary (see *Bulletin* 204). We hope that all groups and individuals active in archaeology in Surrey will enter a display in the competition.

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available at a small charge at the lunch and mid afternoon breaks. Admittance will be £2 at the door, but tickets may be bought in advance for £1.50 including postage. Applications for tickets should be made to Mrs. Susan Janaway at Castle Arch in Guildford. Cheques should be made payable to Surrey Archaeological Society. There is ample car parking space adjacent to the Dorking Halls; note that there are long stay terms in certain areas.

D. G. Bird

EXCAVATION REPORT

Blechingley Castle Excavation. Part II

(Part I in *Bulletin* 214)

The Masonry Building: The Primary Phase (TQ 322505)

The outline of half of a building of roughly square form with a diaphragm wall was visible before excavation started. There was a corner turret at the south-east corner containing an apparently reconstructed wheel-stair.

The remains can now be seen as those of a structure measuring 23.27m by 24.64m with square turrets projecting at the north-west and south-east corners. The walls are approximately 1.5m thick at their base and on the east front there was the remains of a chamfer-topped plinth of 75mm offset. On the south side of the building at the east end, a horizon of undressed but flat stones marks the top of the remaining medieval wall face. This horizon, just a few inches above the level of the circum-mural Victorian garden path and 0.4m below the top of the plinth on the east side, probably represents nineteenth century tidying up of the ruins.

The foundations of the wall were shown to have been made by cutting a trench 0.6m deep through the soft sand as far as the hard bedrock and then filling it with mortared rubble.

MEETINGS, ETC.

NOVEMBER

Friday 7th, 8.15 p.m.

DOMESDAY BOOK AND THE ORIGINS OF REIGATE. Talk by Rob Poulton to Holmesdale N.H.C. at Reigate Priory.

Tuesday 11th, 7.30 p.m.

THE GREENWICH & LONDON RAILWAY. Talk by Tony Johnson to Southwark & Lambeth A.S. at John Harvard Library Hall, Borough High Street.

Wednesday 12th, 7.45 p.m.

THE OLD STONE AGE AT BOXGROVE, SUSSEX. Talk by Mark Roberts to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Thursday 13th, 8.00 p.m.

EXCAVATION AT WANBOROUGH. Talk by Martin O'Connell to Egham-by-Runnymede H.S. at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street.

Thursday 20th, 7.45 p.m.

WAVERLEY AND OTHER CISTERCIAN ABBEYS. Talk by Elizabeth Hunot to Farnham & District Museum Society at U.R. Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

Saturday 22nd

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK ON SURREY GARDENS. Day symposium at Central Library, St. Nicholas Way, Sutton. Tickets and full details from the Heritage Officer, Central Library. (01-661 5501 or 5504). Tickets £11 include coffee, lunch and tea.

Saturday 22nd, 3.00 p.m.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION. Talk by Mrs. Odile Hughson to Walton & Weybridge L.H.S. at Elmgrove Meeting Room, Walton.

Saturday 29th

MEDIAEVAL SURREY. Day conference at Juniper Hall Field Centre, Mickleham. Topics include Blechingley Castle; Domesday Dorking; Borelli Yard, Farnham; etc. Coffee, lunch and tea are included in the conference fee of £9.50. Cheques (payable to Surrey Archaeological Society) and enquiries to Dr. D. Renn, 7 Burrows Chase, Great Bookham, Leatherhead KT23 3HB.

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th, 7.45 p.m.

CHILWORTH GUNPOWDER MILLS. Talk by Alan Crocker to Farnham & District Museum Society at the U.R. Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

Wednesday 10th, 8.15 p.m.

THE DOMESDAY SURVEY IN SURREY. Talk by Dennis Turner to Holmesdale N.H.C. at The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate.

Saturday 13th

DIETS & CRAFTS IN TOWNS: THE EVIDENCE FROM ANIMAL REMAINS. Day conference at the Extra-Mural Dept., London University. Tickets £10 available from Miss E. Clancy, Extra-Mural Dept., 20 Russell Square, London W.C.1.

Next Bulletin

The last *Bulletin* for 1986 will also cover January, 1987. Copy must be with the Editor by Saturday, 8th November.

On the north side of the building there was an unchecked opening 1.75m wide into the ground floor some 3.3m from the north-east corner. The stonework of the opening appeared to bear the signs of a fierce conflagration.

The southern two-thirds of the ground floor chamber to the east of the diaphragm wall had been excavated in Victorian times and left as a walled rock garden. The chamber was found to have been lit by two narrow, double-splayed, single-light windows in the south wall. A third window probably existed where there is today a breach in the wall.

Outside the eastern window of the south wall, a fallen but coherent mass of masonry was found which demonstrated that this wall was originally faced in small ashlar blocks of Upper Greensand and had pilaster buttresses 1.04m wide and 1.57m apart giving a measured 'pitch' of 3.61m corresponding to that between the ground floor windows. The wall between the buttresses extended upwards to a second chamfered offset — this time of 100mm — possibly at first floor level. A ridged capping stone from a 255mm thick parapet was also recovered.

The cleared part of the eastern range contains one original rectangular pillar preserved to a height of 2.5m above the twentieth century ground surface. The north side of the pillar is still largely covered by uncleared debris but carries traces of plaster.

The northern third of the eastern chamber is occupied by a mound of debris from the collapse of the castle. On the top of this mound was revealed a platform of masonry approximately 3.1m north to south by 2.7m east to west standing on the north-south axis of the chamber. The mortared surface of this platform only survived over its south-west quadrant and the masonry below had been eroded towards the north. The platform rested on a solid masonry column of the same dimensions. There was no scarcement to carry joists but possible sockets for this purpose were found. The platform was probably a hearth for the first floor hall.

Within the chamber the *VCH* plan marks a depression labelled 'well'. This was partly re-excavated and found to be cone-shaped and surrounded by Victorian dry-stone walling. This walling was backed by clay on at least the northern side of the depression. Below the dry-stone walling, loose sandy fill containing fragments of flower pot was removed to a point where large masses of collapsed masonry were reached at the south side of the excavation. Further exploration of this feature was not possible as resources did not permit the proper shoring and sheer legs that would have been necessary.

A second stair turret was located at the north-west corner of the building. This had practically the same dimensions as that at the opposite corner but the steps had not been reconstructed and all the risers except the lowest had been robbed. The walls of the lobby leading to the foot of the stair showed clear signs of burning.

Slightly north of the mid-point between the north-west and south-west corners of the building, three walls project westwards for approximately 3.6m but are not quite equally spaced. The outer ends of the northern pair were linked just above present ground level by a low arch of which only one tusk remains on the north. The southern pair of walls is still joined by a low arch which appears to have been rebuilt.

The central of the three walls continues eastwards into the building to become an internal wall dividing the ground floor of the west range into two. The base of a doorway through this wall, checked against the south, survives within the building. Between the projecting walls, the west wall of the building is pierced by doorways checked against the interior of the building. The spaces between the projecting walls and the doorways linking them had been cleared during the construction of a garden path that enters the medieval building between the northern pair and dog-legs through the doorway in the central of the three walls to continue to the arch in the diaphragm wall. This work was probably coeval with the

nineteenth century excavation and may have involved the modification of the doorways. The doorway between the southern pair of projecting walls may have been partly reconstructed.

The construction projecting from the west side of the building appears to be two large garderobe chambers set in a garderobe 'tower' comparable to that at Christchurch Castle. However, the level of the doorway, with its cill only a few inches below the level of the outer arch, may militate against this explanation.

Inside the building, just south of the projecting walls and emerging from the top of the surviving debris mound, was a semicircular masonry platform that was flat-topped and at a similar level to the rectangular hearth observed in the east chamber. Although the northern side of this feature had clearly eroded badly since the cutting of the Victorian garden path, it appeared to be burnt at the southern edges and was probably another hearth, possibly set beneath a plaster smoke hood. This hearth lies adjacent to a broad buttress on the outside face of the wall which may have accommodated a primitive form of chimney. Midway between the buttress and the corner of the building, the remains of a further double-splayed window to the ground floor can be seen.

Soon after the construction of the building, rubbish — including a coin of William Rufus (1088-1100) — began to be deposited against its southern wall. The Blechingley building must have had two storeys beneath a roof of 'double pile' form and can be compared with the 'house' excavated recently at Castle Acre and dated to before 1085. The presence of stair turrets at opposite corners of the building shows greater sophistication than possessed by the house at Castle Acre.

(To be concluded in the next *Bulletin*).

D. J. Turner

Iron Pick from Chaldon Quarries

A puzzling aspect of the Merstham-Chaldon stone quarries has always been the failure, since they were re-entered in 1967, to discover a single quarryman's pick, despite the millions of pick-marks to be found all over the quarry walls and ceilings, and worked blocks of stone left underground.

Now the first, and so far as is known only, such pick has come to light. It appears to have been found by Messrs. Musto and Thomas of Merstham in or around October, 1973, and has been in Mr. Thomas's possession until now. It was donated to the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society museum collection by Mr. Thomas in May 1985, wrapped in a copy of the *Daily Mail* dated 16 October, 1973.

The pick is a substantial object some 27cm long, and appears to have been made from a strip of iron doubled back on itself to form a loop for the wooden handle (which does not survive) about 3.5cm by 7.5cm, the two pieces of iron then being worked together into a pick-head tapering from 4cm by 3cm to a point at the business end. Possibly this method of construction is datable? Hitherto, only iron wedges have been known from the quarry galleries. The pick head was found in the easternmost accessible galleries, in an area rich in early 18th century graffiti and clay-pipe fragments; but as a relic of actual quarrying activity is thought to be considerably older than these apparent traces of post-quarrying visitors' activities. There is a bold \bar{x} mark on one side of the tool, of unknown significance. As the only pick head so far found in the 16,000 metre tunnel system, this is an important find.

Paul W. Sowan