



SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX
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BULLETIN

Number 223

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SAS VISIT TO BROCKHAM GREEN AND DORKING

arranged by Mrs. Joyce Banks

Saturday, 17th October

Numbers limited to 40

- 10.30 a.m. Meet outside the Duke's Head, north side of Brockham Green (TQ 197495) for coffee — parking round the green and in side roads. Tillingbourne buses leave Dorking North station at 9.35 and 10.49.
- 11.00 'People and places round Brockham Green' — guided walk with Mrs. Victoria Houghton.
- 12.30 p.m. Break for lunch. Two pubs on the green provide good food. Also large selection of pubs and restaurants in Dorking (just over 3 miles west). Map of Dorking town centre showing parking places, to be provided.
- 2.00 Meet on Butter Hill, Dorking. TQ 164494 (From east side of South Street, take turning just **beyond** the Rose Hill Arch and exit from car park). Assemble in front of Friends' Meeting House.
Depending on numbers, the party will be divided into two or three groups to visit:
1. The South Street caves, formerly used for wine storage, but with smuggling connections. (Caves are now well-lit and provided with handrail). Arranged by Mrs. Mary Turner of Dorking and Leith Hill Preservation Society Local History Group.
 - 2/3. Dorking Museum/Dorking Museum Library (by kind permission of Miss Doris Mercer, Curator).
(The two sites are only a few minutes' walk apart).
Any spare time will be spent looking at buildings on the Museum's Town Trail leaflets.
- 5.00 Light tea at Museum.

Tickets: Members £2.25, non-members £2.35, students and children half price. This includes administration, coffee, entrance to caves, museum, tea and donations. Please send cheque (with s.a.e.) to Mrs. Jean West, 123 Ewell By Pass, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2PX (Tel: 01-393 8970) not later than 5th October to enable final arrangements to be completed.



Young Archaeologists Club

Our name and logo competition was won by Mark Stonard and his logo design will appear on our club badges and literature. Young people aged between eight and 18 are invited to join the club which will meet once a month on Saturdays. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, 19th September. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Julia Arthur or Gwyneth Price at Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX, Tel: (0483) 505050, ext. 3542.

We would also like to hear from any adults who could help with junior meetings (8-12 year olds) on Saturday mornings.

Request for Information: The Auxiliary Fire Service, 1938-1941

Brian Wright, a fire historian and member of our Society, would like to hear from anyone who was a member of the A.F.S. to help in research he is undertaking into the history of various fire brigades. He can be contacted at 317 Reigate Road, Epsom Downs KT17 3LT. Tel: 01-643 8000 ext. 221 (day), 0737 352930 (evenings).

FORMATION OF NEW NATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP

Medieval Settlement Research Group

The Medieval Settlement Research Group was founded in November 1986 from an amalgamation of two well-established organisations, the Moated Sites Research Group and the Medieval Villages Research Group. Archaeologists, geographers and historians belonging to the Group aim to use their disciplines co-operatively, in order to advance knowledge of settlements of all kinds. The Group's interest is concentrated on the period between the fifth and sixteenth centuries, but does not exclude earlier and later periods, study of which is often essential for understanding developments in the middle ages.

The last thirty years have transformed our views on the history of medieval settlement. Thousands of 'lost' villages, most of them deserted at the end of the middle ages, have been identified. Shrunken villages, deserted hamlets and moated sites have been added to the lists of abandoned settlements. Excavations have revealed the constantly changing shape and size of settlements and enable us to study houses and the life that went on within them. Research into the origins of settlements has shown that moated sites developed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and large villages not much earlier; the pre-conquest period is revealed as a time of varied and shifting settlement forms. There are still many gaps in our knowledge and problems remain which can only be solved by further research.

Through the Medieval Settlement Research Group reports of new discoveries will be communicated and new ideas are aired and discussed. The Group aims to spread information about settlements as widely as possible, and to increase public awareness of the subject. The Group offers advice and information to organisations and to individuals conducting research into settlement history. The Group encourages the preservation of sites where possible, and aims to influence policy on the

excavation of threatened sites. The Group sponsors the long-term research project at Wharram Percy in North Yorkshire.

The Group will publish *Annual Reports* containing both details of recent field work and short articles on aspects of settlement history. There will be regular meetings, including an Annual General Meeting with lectures or seminars, and occasional conferences.

Members of the Group will receive a free copy of the *Annual Report* and are invited to the various meetings and conferences. To join, write to Dr. C. C. Dyer, School of History, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. The annual subscription is £5.

EXCAVATION REPORTS, ETC.

Mesolithic Site, Ladymead, Guildford (DU 997508)

From time to time, worked flints have been found in the gardens of numbers 22 and 26 Ladymead, Guildford, and in the vicinity of Guildford Fire Station. When excavations were made in 1975 for the foundations of the pedestrian bridge which now crosses the road by Stoke Roundabout, close watch was kept for any artefacts which might be revealed.

The workings on the north side of the road exposed river gravel deposits at just below ground level and no finds were made. On the south side, however, further finds of worked flints occurred, some being found two feet below roadside ground level. A clay pipe bowl with spur, of 17th century origin, was also found at the same level. It is assumed that levelling and foundation work for the Guildford By-pass in the 1930s may have accounted for such a mix.

Observation of the site has since been maintained and has resulted in a collection of some 65 worked flints. These have been identified as of Mesolithic origin, consisting of cores (6), scrapers (7), blades, saws and wasters. It has been pointed out that one scraper has had patination removed by further working, seemingly indicating Neolithic/Bronze Age re-use of a Mesolithic tool. A more recent discovery has been an almost perfect flint arrowhead, exposed by rain on a roadside bank. The arrowhead has been identified as late Neolithic or Bronze Age type.

The location of the site is on the edge of the flood plain of the River Wey, and is some four feet higher than the road level, consisting of a sand deposit. The whole of the fire station site appears to have been cut out of this higher level. It would be interesting to hear from anyone who may remember the erection of this building in 1936/37, as to whether this conjecture is correct. The area was originally part of the old Stoke Rectory grounds, the Rectory house being demolished after the end of the last war. Later bulldozing of the old part of Stoke Churchyard for building purposes did not bring to light any significant finds.

It is understood that road works to be carried out by the Surrey County Council in the near future are likely to involve the most prolific find area, which from the evidence it has yielded, seems to indicate an almost continuous human occupation from the earliest prehistoric times in this part of Stoke. The flints are now deposited at Guildford Museum, reference number RB 3689.

R. A. Shettle

Bagshot, Nos. 48-54 High Street (SU 912634)

The 1987 excavations, by kind permission of Courage Ltd. and Ravenstone Security Ltd. and supported with a rescue grant from Surrey Archaeological Society, have successfully re-examined parts of the 17th century tavern, probably known as the Red Lyon, first located in 1983 (*Bulletins* 184, 186). It has now been possible to identify at least two

phases for this building commencing in the late 16th century and terminating some time before 1650. Items of waterlogged timber have been removed from the latest phase of the building and an application has been presented to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for dendrochronological dating as this may well help with the establishment of the structures use date. Fragments of eight additional English wine glasses have been found together with sherds from stoneware flagons and mugs. A leather bound, wooden framed, dagger sheath and a corroded mass of iron chain mail edged in gilded iron links was excavated from the Phase 1 Red Lyon layers.

Areas adjacent to the High Street, not previously examined, have produced more detailed information of the New Red Lion constructed in the mid 18th century, together with an underlying 15th century stone building of which an isolated pier or column base was excavated. Extensive medieval occupation levels in two periods have been recorded with the latest dating to the late 14th century and relating to a large timber post-built structure partially uncovered in 1984/1985 (*Bulletins* 197, 202). The earlier medieval levels revealed a well preserved timber post and plank building, the majority of which is located under the High Street, which is probably of circa 1250-1350.

Beneath the medieval layers a complete wooden barrel was excavated which, being surrounded in a puddled clay layer, was undoubtedly used for the storage of water.

From shallow disturbed layers beneath the barrel's clay surround a complete wooden eating bowl was found. This bowl, which was turned on a lathe, was found in an inverted position and without any other finds. It therefore seems likely to have been deliberately placed in this position possibly as some form of ritualistic tradition. The bowl and other organic and delicate objects have been accepted by the Institute of Archaeology for processing through their Conservation Laboratory. Conservation of the barrel has commenced at the Archaeology Centre together with other items of wood and leather.

Lowest levels of excavation revealed the course of a ditch first provisionally identified in 1983. Considerable layers of gravel slippage and silting were recorded in this feature and from the primary silting several sherds of chaff or grass tempered pottery were recorded. Provisional analysis of the ditch contents suggest a construction date of around AD 500 to 800 thus suggesting the first observation of early medieval material from Bagshot. Several sherds of Romano-British pottery have also been recorded from the site together with a ditch producing pottery of about AD 100 to 200.

Conclusion

From the archaeological evidence of this site and others in Bagshot village it seems likely that occupation commenced during the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, continued throughout the Romano-British period and beyond into the early medieval age. The evidence for occupation during the "Dark Ages" of the 6th to 11th centuries is very fragmentary but from about 1100 inhabitation of the central Bagshot area was continuous to the present day. To fully understand the chronological development of the village from the Romano-British period until today will require extensive input of finance, experience and dedication over many years. Rescue excavations in the Bagshot area are likely to continue for several years due to planned re-developments.

G. H. Cole,
Surrey Heath Group

31 Bell Street, Reigate (TQ 254502)

A large machine-dug trial hole to the rear of an 18th century building prompted a rescue excavation during May and June 1987. This work by the developer was connected with a long outstanding planning permission. Aside from a few stone and brick walls from 19th century structures the developer's work revealed contemporary features of medieval date, all confined to the north of the area. This is the first time it has been possible to examine the archaeology of the east side of Bell Street. I am most grateful to the owners, Woodgavil Properties, for their co-operation and for providing mechanical assistance to expose further the medieval features.

Three features were found, the largest being an irregularly-shaped hollow about 0.7m deep and at least 3.0m wide and 6.5m long. Into this had been dumped a large quantity of rubble mixed with mortar, burnt clay and reddened flints. Dark grey sandy loam containing much pottery and bone lay both above and below this. The hollow itself consisted of a series of interlinked scoops into hard iron-rich sand. The original function is uncertain although a quarry pit is a possibility. Adjacent to this, and positioned so as to suggest it was earlier, was a sub-rectangular pit 1.8m deep and 1.4m wide with a series of fillings, at the base of which was a group of blackened stones. Pottery was found in the upper fill but the grey sand below was almost sterile. Between the two a darker layer contained a cut halfpenny of Henry II (1158-80). This feature may have been used as a cesspit.

Adjacent to these and recorded in some haste was a structure of uncertain purpose, approx. 2.4m long consisting of a rough, tapering platform of ironstone blocks overlain with a spread of white crumbly mortar. Over this was a layer of clay with patches of charcoal and burning. This structure overlay a thin natural deposit of silver sand which in turn overlay the harder brown sand below. Within the silver sand and beneath the ironstone platform were large fragments of the upper stone of a rotary quern of Lower Greensand.

All three features contained similar pottery which suggests a date in the second half of the 12th century thus confirming the date provided by the coin. Coarse shell-tempering was absent and there is a large number of thumbled rims. Scratch marking too is common and there are also glazed sherds. The only other find was a gilded four-lobed stud from the large hollow.

At the time of writing the developer is applying for permission to demolish the buildings to the rear of the frontage and to construct an underground car park and office accommodation above. With such a scheme it would not be possible for part time work to deal adequately with the necessary recording in the time available.

David Williams

Development of Building in Surrey

The Domestic Buildings Research Group, led by Miss Joan Harding, has mounted an interesting display in the East Surrey Museum, Stafford Road, Caterham, showing the development of building in Surrey, with examples taken mainly from East Surrey. The exhibition continues until the end of October. Free parking in the car park behind St. John's Church, Godstone Road, a short five minutes walk away. The Museum is open Wednesday and Saturday 10.00-17.00 and on Sunday 14.00-17.00. Admission 20p.

Courage's Brewery, Staines

Two corrections to the report which appeared in *Bulletin* 220. First paragraph, the third and fourth sentences should read: "Access from the High Street island was by way of Longford Bridge on Church Street, the upper part of which was called Binneburie Street in the 14th century. Binbury has been adopted as the name of the island for convenience . . . etc., etc." Second paragraph, first sentence should read: "With the aid of a donation and other resources provided by the developers, Courage Ltd., and the assistance . . . etc., etc."

Recent Publications

"*Woodside*" by Lilian Thornhill. Published by North Downs Press. A brief history and description of the development of the one-time village two miles east of Croydon town.

"*A Scent of Violets: Glimpses of Victorian Dorking*". Compiled and edited by Patricia Bennett and published by Dorking Local History Group.

"*The Dorking Cock*". Leaflet about the five-toed bird which appears in the Dorking Coat-of-Arms. Published by the Dorking Local History Group. Both Dorking publications are available from Dorking Museum.

British Archaeology Monthly — a new archaeological magazine

The first issue of *British Archaeology Monthly* has recently been published (July) and this new magazine joins *Current Archaeology*, *Archaeology Today* (formerly *Popular Archaeology*) and of more local interest *The London Archaeologist* as essential reading for all those trying to keep up with archaeology in Britain.

The welcoming letter to the reader suggests that it is aimed at the dedicated 'amateur' archaeologist and will keep readers up to date with new equipment and techniques, excavations, lectures, day-schools, exhibitions etc.

The first issue gives an insight into the range of articles to be published in the future with short articles on the problem with rescue archaeology in Monmouth; Britain's Lost City; the Roman dig at Prestwich near Manchester; the Jorvik Viking Centre; the Dean Heritage Centre; the Littledean Temple; the Romano-British villa at Wortley; and Viking ships at York.

Each issue of the magazine costs £1.25 and the annual subscription is £18. Further information from Millberg Publishing, Bell House, 3a New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2DX.

Courses in Archaeology and Related Subjects

The following courses are in addition to those listed in *Bulletin* 222.

The Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, will be running classes for the Diploma in Archaeology and Certificate and Diploma in Field Archaeology at various centres. Full information can be obtained from the Department at 26 Russell Square, London WC1 5DQ. Telephone 01-636 8000, extension 3854.

Croydon AEC

"Archaeology of the Levant". Wednesday mornings beginning 30th September at Coombe Cliff Centre. Tutor: E. P. Uphill.

"Changing Scenes of Surrey Villages". Monday afternoons commencing 12th October, Coombe Cliff Centre. Tutor: Charles Pringle.

Epsom & Ewell AEI

"Archaeology and History of Roman Britain". Starting in September.

Tutor: Brian Wright. (No other details to hand).

Kingston AES

"Hadrian's Wall and Beyond". Wednesday afternoons commencing 23rd September. King Athelstan Centre. Tutor: Elizabeth Eames.

"Ancient Egypt: History & Archaeology". Wednesday evenings beginning 23rd September. King Athelstan Centre. Tutor: E. P. Uphill.

"Archaeology & History of Roman Britain". Starting in September. Tutor: Brian Wright.

Merton IAE

"Archaeology of London". Wednesday evenings beginning 23rd September. Tutor: Elizabeth Eames.

Reigate & Redhill WEA

"History of Surrey". Wednesday evenings commencing 14th October. Reigate Priory School. Tutor: Charles Pringle.

Sanderstead & Selsdon WEA

"Local History". Wednesday afternoons beginning 23rd September at Thomas More High School, Purley, and at Monks Hill High School, Selsdon, on Tuesday evenings started 29th September.

Sutton College of Liberal Arts

"Archaeology of Roman Britain". Tuesday evenings beginning 22nd September. Woodcote Centre, Wallington. Tutor: Elizabeth Eames.

"Archaeology of Tudor & Stuart England". Wednesday mornings commencing 23rd September. Sutton College, St. Nicholas Way. Tutor: Elizabeth Eames.

Waverley AEI

"Prehistory — Its Men and Its Monuments". Tuesday evenings commencing 22nd September. Farnham 6th Form College, Morley Road. Tutor: Mark Reeve.

Correction

The Guildford WEA course "Byzantium" will now start on Tuesday, 12th January at the Guildford Institute. The Tutor will be Lady Hanworth.

MEETINGS ETC.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 8th, 7.45 p.m.

"STONEHENGE". Talk by Alan Proffitt to Croydon NHSS at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Saturday 19th

COACH OUTING TO THE LUNT and Coventry, arranged by Surrey Roman Villa Group. Details given in *Bulletin 222*.

Thursday 24th, 8.00 p.m.

"PAXTON AND THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851". Talk by Doris Yarde to Egham-by-Runnymede H.S. in the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham.

Friday 25th, 8.00 p.m.

"THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF THE RIVER WANDLE". Talk by Douglas Cluett to Wandsworth H.S. at the Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday 26th

SAS COACH VISIT TO EAST MEON. Full details in *Bulletin 222*.

OCTOBER

Friday 16th, 7.30 p.m.

"THE REIGATE HOUSE WITH ITS WALL PAINTINGS AND OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN-AIR MUSEUM". Lecture by Richard Harris, Research Director of the Museum, at Dorking Halls. Annual lecture of the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey). SAS members and friends welcome. Entrance 50p (including coffee).

Saturday 17th

"NEW APPROACHES IN ARCHAEOLOGY". Sussex Archaeological Society conference arranged in conjunction with Wealden Iron Research Group. The speakers will be: Catherine Royle, Peter Reynolds, Don Brothwell and Peter Marsden. The conference, to be held in Lewes, is a tribute to the life and work of the late Mr. C. F. Tebbutt. All proceeds will be donated to the Tebbutt Research Fund. Full programme and tickets (£5, with cheque payable to The Tebbutt Research Fund) available from David Rudling, 112 Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton BN1 7HE. (Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope).

Early Notice

January 8th-10th, 1988

"QUARRYING & STONE SUPPLY: FROM ROMAN BRITAIN TO THE END OF THE MIDDLE AGES". Weekend conference based at the Kings Head Hotel, Loughborough, organised by the Royal Archaeological Society in association with the University of Leicester. It aims to promote the exchange of information between various groups working in this field, particularly archaeologists and geologists. Conference Secretary: Mrs. K. Penny, Dept. of Adult Education, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH.

Next Bulletins

The October issue goes to press on 5th September. For the November issue copy is required by Saturday, 10th October. For the December/January 1988, *Bulletin* copy must reach the Editor by Saturday, 7th November.