



SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX
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BULLETIN

Number 224

October 1987

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ROBERT WILLIAM McDOWALL, C.B.E., F.S.A.

It is with the greatest regret that we record the death on Monday, June 8th 1987 after a short illness, of Robin McDowall, a Past President of the Society. He joined the Society in 1963 and played an active part in its affairs from the very beginning. He was elected a Vice-President in 1973, was President of the Society from 1975 to 1980, and also served the Society in many other ways. A full obituary will appear in Volume 79 of the *Collections* which will be dedicated to his memory.

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 28th in Lecture Theatre G 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 22nd 1986.
3. To receive and consider the Annual Report, the Statement of Accounts, and the auditor's report for the year to March 31st 1987, and if approved, to adopt them.
4. To elect the President for the year 1987-1988.
5. To elect Honorary Vice-Presidents for 1987-1988.
6. To elect Vice-Presidents for 1987-1988.
7. To elect Honorary Officers for 1987-1988.
8. To elect six ordinary members of Council to retire in 1991 under Article 21a.

Nominations for election under items 4-8 should be sent to the Honorary 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 Auditors for 1987-1988.
10. Any other business.

Annual Lecture

Following the AGM, a lecture entitled

An Introduction to Surrey Houses

will be given by

Mr. K. W. E. Gravett, M.Sc(Eng), F.S.A.

Honorary Vice President of the Society.

Tea will be served following the lecture.

Surrey Archaeological Society Research Fund

This fund has been set up to support research on any aspect of the history of archaeology of the historic or administrative county of Surrey. Projects involving Surrey as a part of a wider region will also be considered. The fund is available to any individual, whether or not a member of the Society and to local historical or archaeological societies or groups. The success of an application is not dependent on a proven record of research. This fund is not intended to supplant existing sources of finance, set out below. An application form and a copy of the general conditions of grants are available from the Hon. Secretary, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX.

Existing Sources

Excavation and Fieldwork — grants are administered by the Excavations Committee. Contact Dr. D. G. Bird (Excavations Committee Secretary) at the Society's address as above.

The Publications and Editorial Committee will continue to consider requests for loans towards the cost of publication. Contact Mrs. P. C. Nicolaysen (Committee Secretary), 295 West Barnes Lane, New Malden KT3 6JE.

The Library, Castle Arch

The Library Committee have a meeting in the Margary Room on Saturday 7th November at 2.30 p.m. It is with regret that the room will not be available to members for the duration of the meeting.

Fieldwalking Guidelines

The fieldwalking season is approaching and readers are reminded that a 12 page booklet on this subject is available, free of charge, from our headquarters at Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX. It was produced by the Excavations Committee for the guidance of individuals or groups who intend to carry out fieldwalking projects.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

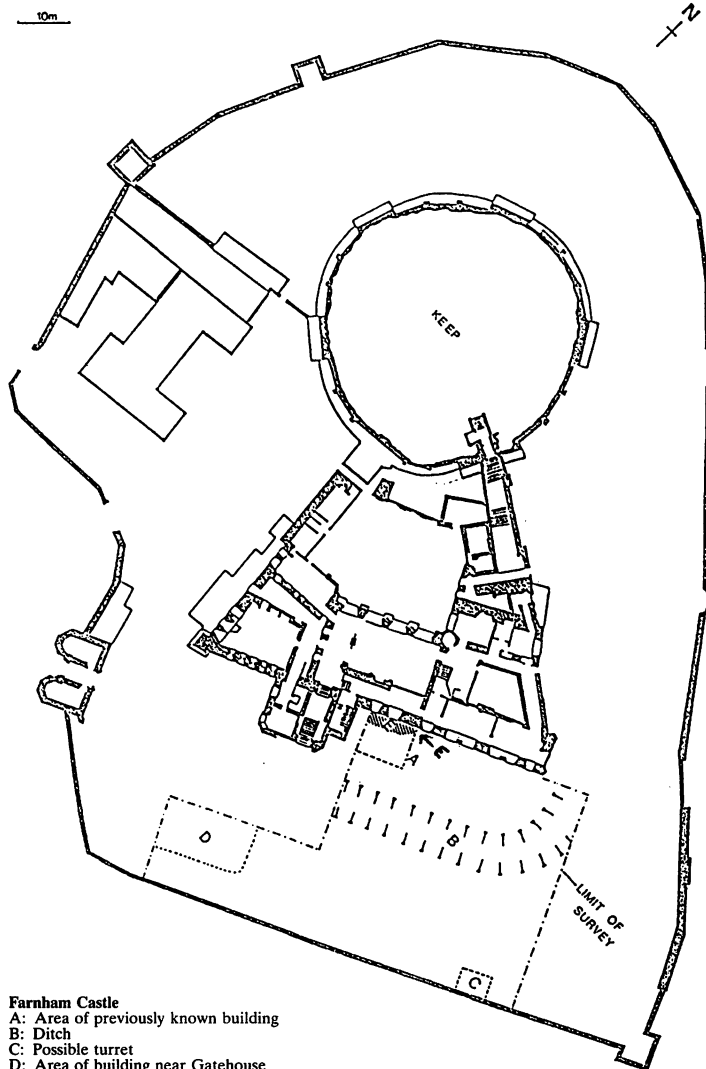
Farnham Castle

An extensive geophysical survey has recently been completed, covering the greater part of the lawn, to the south of the main range of the Castle buildings. The survey was carried out by members of the Farnham & District Museum Society, using a Martin-Clark resistivity meter and the results were plotted by computer using a 3D graphics programme specially written for the purpose.

The survey appears to show that an 8m wide ditch (B) runs east/west across the lawn, parallel to the south front of the castle and turns to the north, around the eastern end of the buildings. This seems likely to be the medieval dry ditch referred to in the Bishopric Accounts and which is recorded as being crossed by a drawbridge.

The survey also indicated the existence of three separate buildings under the lawn. the first of these (A) was already known to exist as a result of a small excavation carried out in the 1970s and lies immediately to the east of Fox's Tower. The second (C) lies on the curtain wall and may well be the remains of a turret, as others are still extant elsewhere along the circuit. The third building (D) lies near the existing gatehouse and may possibly be connected with it.

David Graham



Farnham Castle
 A: Area of previously known building
 B: Ditch
 C: Possible turret
 D: Area of building near Gatehouse
 E: Area of low readings — ditch/pit/foundation trench?

OCTOBER

MEETINGS & SYMPOSIA

Thursday 15th, 7.45 p.m.

FARNHAM — THE MOST HAUNTED TOWN IN SURREY. Talk by Matthew Alexander to Farnham & District Museum Society at the U.R. Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

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 are welcome. Entrance 50p (including coffee)

Saturday 17th

NEW APPROACHES IN ARCHAEOLOGY. Sussex Archaeological Society conference in Lewes. Details given in *Bulletin* 223.

Wednesday 28th, 8.00 p.m.

OXSHOTT POTTERY. A talk and demonstration by Rosemary Wren to Esher L.H.S. at Oxshott Village Centre.

Friday 30th, 8.00 p.m.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT MERTON ABBEY. Talk by Scott McCracken to Wandsworth H.S. at Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday 31st, 3.00 p.m.

THE OATLANDS PARK GARDEN. Talk by Michael Symes to Walton & Weybridge L.H.S. at Weybridge Library Hall.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 4th, 8.00 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF SHOPPING. Talk by Kenneth Gravett to Nonsuch A.S. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.

Thursday 5th, 7.45 p.m.

THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF ALTON. Talk by Mrs. V. F. Smith to Farnham D.M.S. at U.R. Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

Thursday 5th, 8.00 p.m.

THE GUNPOWDER MILLS AT BEDFONT. Talk by Phil Philo to Spelthorne A.F.G. at Old Town Hall, Staines.

Thursday 12th, 7.45 p.m.

ALICE HOLT — HISTORY OF A ROYAL FOREST. Talk by D. H. Burdekin to Farnham D.M.S. at U.R. Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

Friday 13th, 8.00 p.m.

ROMAN RELIGION AND VILLAS IN SURREY. Talk by John Gower to Leatherhead L.H.S. at the Leatherhead Institute.

Saturday 14th

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM: "SURREY AT WAR". University of Surrey, Guildford.

Saturday 14th

ASPECTS OF ROMAN LIFE IN BRITAIN. Afternoon conference arranged by Council for Kentish Archaeology at Canterbury. Details in *Bulletin* 222.

Next *Bulletin*

Copy for the November issue must be with the Editor by Saturday, 10th October. The *Bulletin* after that will cover December 1987 and January 1988; copy is required by Saturday, 7th November.

Preston Hawe, Banstead (TQ 236572)

An excavation at the manorial site of Preston Hawe, Banstead took place between 29 June and 28 July 1987. The work was directed by Rob Poulton for the Conservation and Archaeology Section, Planning Department, Surrey County Council and generously financed by McAlpine Homes South Ltd, who were to develop the area involved. Thanks are due to the largely volunteer workforce for their hard work.

The manor of Preston is ill recorded by documents, particularly for the period before the 14th century. However, until the 1950s the field known as Preston Hawe retained a number of earthwork features, including a roughly square bank and ditch enclosure. These were then mostly removed in housing development, but before that occurred excavations by Dr. B. Hope-Taylor (see *Archaeological News Letter*, (1953) 4, (12); *The Banstead District Gazette*, (1953) 5, (1)) demonstrated that they belonged to a manorial site, flourishing in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The present work was confined to the small surviving portion of the enclosure. The work indicated that the ditch on the south side of the enclosure was less impressive than on the other sides, and suggested that the major foci of occupation were limited to areas already explored by Hope-Taylor. An unexpected feature of the work was the recovery of a number of flint artefacts, mostly of Mesolithic date, and including a tranchet axe.

Rob Poulton
Archaeological Field Officer

The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Reigate

Between March and May the site of the Old Vicarage and the underlying Saxo-Norman settlement was redeveloped for housing. Unfortunately, the developer, McAlpine Retirement Homes was not willing to grant aid a watching brief. However it proved possible to organise salvage recording with a daytime presence for recovery of pottery and evening and weekend work for the recording of features left exposed. Large amounts of soil were removed by landscape contractors and it proved impractical to keep track of this.

Three additional features of archaeological interest were noted. In the rear garden, beneath a build-up of loam, about 1m deep, were the remains of two oxen buried in the same pit. One of these beasts still retained all four iron shoes. Dating was unclear but they are probably of 18th or early 19th century date. At a point immediately beyond the south of the area originally excavated and situated just outside the medieval house, when at its greatest extent, were two adjacent features noted after topsoil stripping. One, a rectangular rubbish pit approx. 1.3 x 1.8m wide by 0.8m deep, was first seen as a pottery concentration mixed with charcoal and oyster shell. From this pit was recovered a group of medieval pottery including most of a large, undecorated, green-glazed, white-slipped jug and large fragments of a skillet, dripping pan and flasks as well as bone. The other feature, a circular, tapering shaft approx. 1.6m deep had four ledges cut into its side. On the assumption that this supported a square structure, this feature was interpreted as a cesspit with a privy. Later in its life the partly-filled pit was further filled with stone and tile rubble and domestic refuse including parts of three Cheam whiteware jugs and much animal bone including articulating bones of fallow deer. A sieved sample from this layer has yielded a large quantity of well-preserved fish and small mammal bone. This feature probably dates to around 1400.

Among the large amount of pottery recovered on regular visits by John Cape was a base sherd apparently from a South Netherlands maiolica altar jug. A handle from a similar vessel was found in the original excavation.

Throughout the period of earthmoving a metal detector survey was made and I am most grateful to Bob Burtenshaw and David Williams for their frequent visits to the site. This work added a large number of finds from the medieval period onwards to those excavated earlier. These included a further 17 coins (including the first Roman coin from Reigate) and a jeton ranging in date otherwise from Henry VIII to Victoria; tokens of William Castleman of Reigate and Charles Hanby of Guildford; a possible coin weight; a seal matrix; a cloth seal; a miniature pistol; buckles, buttons and studs; musket balls, lead weights etc.

David Williams

Godalming Relief Road

Work has begun under the aegis of Waverley Archaeological Advisory Committee in advance of development on the proposed route of the Godalming relief road. It is intended that a number of sites should be investigated by a series of small trenches with larger areas excavated where a need is indicated.

The first site involved trenches in the rear gardens of houses at the bottom of Brighton Road (area SU 973438), an area thought to have been fields during the medieval period. These gardens form a series of terraces cut into the side of the steep slope where the Hythe beds of the lower greensand form a ridge to the south of the river Wey.

Trench 1, 8.7m to the rear of 8 Brighton Road revealed 118cm light brown sandy soil underlying 30cm topsoil and overlying sterile sand considered to be natural. This sandy soil contained small amounts of pottery ranging from medieval to 19th century with no clear stratification and may represent plough soil which has slipped down the slope of the hill resting against an unlocated field boundary.

Trench 2, 15m further down the same garden contained a modern pit, and the footings for and demolition debris from a brick wall. In a disturbed layer of garden soil was a trade token issued by Thomas Lusher of Chiddingfold in 1668. The obverse bears two pipes and a roll of tobacco. As in trench 1, any stratification appeared to have been lost, possibly due to slippage of cultivated soil down the slope prior to development.

Trench 3, close to the rear of 4, Brighton Road contained an ash filled gully. A sandy layer overlying natural contained pottery dating from medieval to Victorian and appeared to have been disturbed when the houses were built.

Trenches 4 and 5 were dug 22m and 25m respectively to the rear of 10 Brighton Road. Trench 4 contained a Victorian rubbish pit, but otherwise a mixture of pottery similar to trenches 1 and 2 was found in sandy soil which overlay "natural" sand.

Nothing found in this limited series of trenches contradicts the view that this area was undeveloped land prior to the late nineteenth century.

A full report of all the sites excavated on the route of the relief road will be prepared in due course.

Judie English and David Graham