

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

Number 23

BULLETIN

November, 1966

Edited by Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Turner, 21 Evesham Road, Reigate.

S.A.S. MEETINGS

5th November. LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM AT DORKING.

12th November. LECTURES AT GUILDFORD.

26th November. C.B.A. Group 11A Symposium: **Science in Archaeology** at the Institute of Archaeology.

EXCAVATION NOTICES

WESTON WOOD, ALBURY: MESOLITHIC SETTLEMENT SITE
(N.G.R.: TQ 053485)

Director: MISS JOAN M. HARDING.

Excavation will continue during the first two weekends of November and December, from 10 a.m. until dusk. Details were given in *Bulletin* No. 22 (October).

Enquiries to: Miss Joan M. Harding, 57 The Green, Ewell.

(Telephone: MUSEum 3644, ext. 330).

COURT LODGE FARM, HORLEY: SITE OF MEDIEVAL MANOR
(N.G.R.: TQ 274432)

Excavation will continue at this site every Sunday throughout November. Work will then stop for the winter. Details were given in *Bulletin* No. 18 (June).

Enquiries to: Mrs. J. Beale, 16 Vogan Close, Reigate.

(Telephone: Reigate 43489).

LAMBETH: POST-MEDIEVAL KILN DUMP

Director: B. J. BLOICE.

Excavation will continue on Sundays from 10 a.m. until dusk. Details were given in *Bulletin* No. 22 (October).

Enquiries to: Hon. Sec., S.A.E.C., Cuming Museum, Walworth Road, London, S.E.17.

In previous issues of the Bulletin (Nos. 8 and 11) writers have described how the Sussex and Kent Archaeological Societies are tackling some of their problems of research and rescue organisation. In the article printed below Mr. N. Farrant, Secretary of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society's Archaeological Research Committee, describes how our trans-pontinely neighbouring society has tackled similar problems over the last few years.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, like so many other county societies, came into being during that great period of archaeological awakening — the middle of the 19th Century. During the subsequent hundred odd years the Society's success in the pursuit of archaeology has naturally enough fluctuated. On occasion an outstanding contribution has been made, as for example the activities in the City of J. E. Price in the 1870's.

In the two decades which have followed the end of World War II there has evolved a pattern of archaeology altogether different from that of the pre-war era. Predominant amongst the changes has been the amateurs' contribution which has grown out of all proportion, not only in the role of the digging force, but also increasingly at the supervisory levels and in the ancillary disciplines. This factor together with the advances in science, the higher standards now demanded in all matters and the power of the forces attacking our local historical heritage, call for a more specialised approach to the work of the Society.

As a result three committees of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society have been formed over the last three years to deal with the aspects of archaeology, local history and the preservation of historic buildings.

The aims of the Archaeological Research Committee (A.R.C.) were laid down in 1963 as follows:-

1. To form and execute a definite research programme and to organise fieldwork and excavations on carefully selected sites in the counties of London and Middlesex and in the City of London in conjunction with the Guildhall Museum.
2. To promote 'above ground archaeology', which is the recording of existing old buildings, and also industrial archaeology.
3. To train people in the necessary skills.
4. To encourage the publication of archaeological reports in the *Transactions*.
5. To compile and publish in the *Bulletin* and *Schools Selection Bulletin* a calendar of forthcoming excavations in London and Middlesex.
6. To arrange annual conferences of London and Middlesex archaeologists.

Since 1963 the Committee has advanced a considerable way towards the fulfilment of these aims, although certain modifications have been necessary because, for example, of the pressure of rescue work.

After a most detailed study, a research policy has been drawn up to act as a blueprint for the archaeological research programme within the Society's area.

An 'umbrella' insurance policy has been taken out which provides for third party cover (including the actual diggers) up to a sum of £50,000 a year — £25,000 any one incident. The policy also makes provision for claims for subsidence of up to £5,000. Affiliated societies may obtain cover at an extremely reasonable rate under this policy which allows for 120 diggers on five sites at any one time.

The Society together with the Guildhall Museum sponsors the City of London Excavation Group (C.O.L.E.G.) which was formed in October, 1964 and which has so far excavated on eight sites. The Society through the A.R.C. provides insurance cover for the Group, shares with the Museum the administration and equipment costs and publishes the report of the excavations.

The A.R.C. makes grants-in-aid to affiliated societies and groups towards the cost of their excavations. It is the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society's policy not to completely take over the running of an excavation or a project, but rather to work in conjunction with some other body, such as a local society. For example, in the case of Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee's work, the Society and the Surrey Archaeological Society each make a similar annual grant and both are represented on the latter committee (together with other interested parties). In the case of the North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee the Society collaborates with ten other bodies in the excavation of the South Mimms motte.

The Society has a pool of equipment which affiliated societies may borrow for their local excavations. Hand tools are loaned free but a reasonable charge (evaluated according to a society's means) is made for heavy equipment such as the electric drill and generator.

In conjunction with the University of London Extra-Mural Department the Society runs an annual archaeological drawing course which attracts much support.

An annual conference of London and Middlesex Archaeologists is held in the City. It runs the usual course of such meetings with papers being read on recent excavations in the area and on suitable allied subjects. At the same time affiliated local societies are able to put recent finds on display.

As a general policy the A.R.C. is trying to produce a course of events which is based on co-ordination between groups and societies. Self-help over excavations and costs is encouraged as far as possible with advice and other aid available from the Society when required. The creation of a monolithic organisation for archaeological purposes is out of the question. The aim is rather the production of a climate which cultivates the interchange of ideas, manpower and equipment, but which also preserves the identity of the local group.

N. M. FARRANT.

NOTES

Albury : Weston Wood (TQ 053485)

The fifth continuous year of excavation has been completed. An acre of the LBA/Transitional site has now been uncovered. This season has been spent on a complex area of hearths and pits, where much pottery

Saturday, 26th. 10 a.m.

**C.B.A. GROUP IIA SYMPOSIUM
SCIENCE IN ARCHAEOLOGY**

To be held at the INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, 31 Gordon Square.
Speakers will be:-

PROF. G. W. DIMBLEBY,

The application of Pollen Analysis to Archaeology.

DR. I. W. CORNWALL,

Soil Science and the Excavator.

H. W. M. HODGES, ESQ.,

Conservation: First Aid in the Field.

J. E. L. CAIGER, ESQ.,

The uses of the Level on Archaeological Sites.

R. HARCOURT, ESQ.,

Evidence from Bones found on Excavations.

It will be possible for those attending the conference to see informal demonstrations in Prof. Dimbleby's laboratory at the Institute.

Tickets, price 5/-, and further information obtained from A. J. Clark, 19 The Crossways, Onslow Village, Guildford.

DECEMBER

Thursday, 2nd. 7.45 p.m.

JOINT MEETING OF THE S.A.S. AND BOURNE SOCIETY

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An Archaeological Entertainment will be held at 7.45 p.m. in the Children's Department, Purley Public Library, Banstead Road, Purley. This is 3 minutes from Purley Station, 1 minute from Purley Cross Roads and 3 minutes from the Car Park off Purley High Street.

The audience is asked to challenge a distinguished panel of archaeologists from GUILDFORD, LONDON and JERUSALEM. In return the panel will challenge the audience with objects and slides from six continents.

Bring something old or curious (but not geological) to test the panel.
Admission Free.

Tuesday, 6th. 8 p.m. FURTHER EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROMAN TILERY, ASHTEAD. An illustrated talk by J. N. HAMPTON, ESQ., at Pit House, Ewell, arranged by the NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY. Members of the S.A.S. who wish to attend should contact Mr. M. Morris, 28 Seymour Road, Ewell.

Wednesday, 7th. 8 p.m. GEOLOGY AND FAUNA OF THE LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT. A talk by W. H. E. RIVETT, ESQ., at Leatherhead Parish Hall, arranged by the LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY. Members of the S.A.S. who wish to attend should contact Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne, 67 Cobham Road, Fetcham.

Tuesday, 13th. 7.30 p.m. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FILMS. To be shown at the Friends' Meeting House, Croydon, by the CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY. Members of the S.A.S. wishing to attend should contact Mr. P. W. Scowan, 1 Chaucer Cottages, Pilgrims' Way, Croham Road, South Croydon.

and some minute fragments of bronze have been found. Bones of a nearly adult sheep/goat and a jaw of a lamb/kid have been found in an ash pit.

The pottery has been studied at the B.M. by Mr. J. Brailsford and Dr. I. Longworth.

Reconstruction experiments include the successful growing of autumn sown emmer wheat and storing grain in a pot made by Mrs. E. Wood of local clay. At Easter the pot was lifted from the pit and the grain poured out, dry and sweet. Metal melting experiments, using hearths and pits as found on the site, will continue.

Recently, one foot below the LBA occupation level, and in blown sand, a mesolithic hearth has been uncovered. An extensive Late Wealden industry has been found in these levels, including more than fifty microliths and a second Tranchet axe. A suggested date is c. 4000 B.C. Charcoal from the mesolithic hearth is being analysed by Prof. Dimbleby. Probable carstone structures around the hearth are being investigated.

Thanks are due to the experts who have helped with advice and also to the many workers on the site.

(Miss Joan M. Harding).

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society rehoused

For the first time since its foundation in 1870 the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society owns premises of its own, having recently purchased outright an old doctor's surgery off the Brighton Road, South Croydon.

The building is soundly constructed, of about 250 sq. ft. floor area, on one floor. It is expected to prove large enough to accommodate the Society's local Library, Regional Survey files and records, and the archaeological and most of the natural history collections. Additionally, space for up to three or four workers at a time appears to be possible. To allow optimum use of the space available, it will be desirable to find other accommodation for the mineralogical collection and for some general and non-local books and runs of periodicals.

It is hoped that, with all relevant records, materials and sources conveniently to hand, work on the Society's Regional Survey and Atlas of Croydon will be accelerated.

(P. W. Scowan).

Reigate : Wray Common Windmill (TQ 268510)

A change of ownership having occurred, this listed, well-known landmark, built 1824, is undergoing repairs and internal alterations. The new owner, having obtained the approval of all authorities concerned, is converting the mill for residential use and is building a two storey extension.

Consent to this work was given on condition that "the cap, sails and gallery be restored concurrently with the development, and thereafter maintained in a satisfactory condition to the reasonable requirements of the local planning authority so as to maintain the architectural or historic interest of the windmill, which attributes to the special characteristics of the locality."

Reigate Borough Council proposes to make a grant of £150 towards the cost of the restoration work.

(A. Buckland Kent).

Museum of the Weald

A meeting was held at the University of Sussex on 24th September to consider a possible site for the establishment of an Open Air Museum of the Weald and Downland Area.

(R. W. McDowall).

FUTURE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 5th. LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM AT DORKING. Details were circulated with Bulletin No. 22 (October).

Tuesday, 8th. 6.30 p.m. MARBLE HILL, TWICKENHAM. An illustrated talk by MRS. M. DRAPER, B.A., at the Cuming Museum, Walworth Road, S.E.17, arranged by the LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION). Members of the S.A.S. welcome.

Tuesday, 8th. 8 p.m. THE WORK OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY. A talk by MRS. J. FAWCETT, Secretary of that Society, at Pit House, Ewell, arranged by the NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY. Members of the S.A.S. who wish to attend should contact Mr. M. Morris, 28 Seymour Road, Ewell.

Thursday, 10th. 8 p.m. ENGLISH CASTLES. An illustrated talk by D. F. RENN, ESQ., F.S.A., at Leatherhead Parish Hall, arranged by the LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY. Members of the S.A.S. who wish to attend should contact Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne, 67 Cobham Road, Fetcham.

Saturday, 12th.

S.A.S. LECTURES AT GUILDFORD

To be held at the Brew House, Guildford (near the Library).

11.30 a.m. THE SAXON TOWN OF THETFORD by B. K. DAVIDSON, ESQ.

2.30 p.m. EXCAVATION AT THE ROMAN VILLA, RAPSLEY, EWHURST, by THE VISCOUNTESS HANWORTH.

Tickets: Members 3/-. Visitors 4/-. Students 2/6d. The maximum capacity of the hall is 80, so please apply for tickets as early as possible to Mrs. R. K. Chiles, 38 Court Hill, Sanderstead.

Important: Please approach the Brew House from North Street via the railed passage beside the Library.

The use of the Brew House does not imply the use of the Library Car Park. In no circumstances may cars be left in this car park as it is used only by Library members and Guildford House staff.

Saturday, 12th. 3.0 p.m. THE EXCAVATION OF A HEBRIDEAN CASTLE. Colour film and illustrated talk by D. J. TURNER, ESQ., at Morden Library, arranged by the MERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Members of the S.A.S. who wish to attend should contact Miss E. M. Jowett, 12 Cranleigh Road, S.W.19.

Friday, 25th. 7.30 p.m. FARNHAM IN THE CIVIL WAR. A talk by Miss D. ST. H. BOURNE, at the Wilmer House Museum, Farnham, arranged by the FARNHAM MUSEUM SOCIETY. Members of the S.A.S. who wish to attend should contact Mrs. M. E. Wood, Ludlam's Gate, Waverly, Farnham.