



**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX**  
**Guildford 32454**

# Bulletin

Number 240

July 1989

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## COUNCIL NEWS

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### New Members

We welcome to the Society the following new members:

I G Archibald, 3 Lockwood, Brookwood GU24 OHL,  
 A M Arbuckle, 34 Ennismore Avenue, Guildford GU1 1SR,  
 P H Clegg, 9 Curlew Court, Chaffinch Close, Hook Rise North, Tolworth KT6 7PH,  
 P Cripps, 25 Sunnydown, Witley GU8 5RP,  
 B J Dawson, 86 Lovelace Drive, Pyrford GU22 8QZ,  
 M S Dawson, 61c Blomfield Road, London W9 2PA,  
 R E Emms, 11 Beechcroft Avenue, New Malden KT3 3EG,  
 Miss G Ines, Nurses' Home, St Luke's Hospital, Warren Road, Guildford GU1 3NT,  
 J M Harte, Bourne Hall Museum, Spring Street, Ewell KT17 1UF,  
 Mrs J Moss, 10 Hurstleigh Drive, Redhill RH1 2AA,  
 E F Spencer, 28 Barrie Road, Upper Hale, Farnham GU9 ODU

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## VISITS COMMITTEE

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### SAS Visit to Dover and around arranged by Richard and Enid Butler Saturday 2nd September

8.00 a.m. Coach leaves rear of Guildford BR station, in Guildford Park Road  
 8.30 a.m. Dorking Halls  
 8.45 a.m. Reigate, on the junction of Park Lane, West Street and High Street  
 Proceed to Dover

A coffee stop will be made at Farthing Corner service area (cost not included). En route to Dover a stop will be made at **Patricxbourne** to visit St Mary's church of late Norman date, it is second to Barfreton. It is built of flint and Caen stone. The east end has a wheel window, a very rare feature indeed. The south side is richly decorated with carved features including Christ in a mandoria held by angels. The carving is believed to be that of a special Kent school of sculptors. Similar examples will be seen later. The carvings over the west door of Rochester Cathedral may also be attributed to this school.

We shall then proceed to St Margarets at Cliffe.

**St Margarets at Cliffe** is a village between Dover and Deal. The church is a complete Norman church on a noble scale. Built of flint with Caen stone dressings. The west doorway shows another set of carvings which may be attributed to the Kentish school. The interior is impressive with columns and scalloped capitals. There is a memorial window to the "Herald of Free Enterprise".

Lunch will be taken in St Margarets or in Dover depending on time.

**Dover.** We will visit the **Roman Painted House**. This town house features some of the oldest and best preserved original wall paintings in Europe. Close by is St Edmunds Chapel which dates from the

c13th, being consecrated in 1253. We shall then proceed to **Dover College** in Effingham Crescent. The College occupies the site of St Martin's Priory founded by Archbishop Corbeuil in 1131. It was occupied by Benedictine monks in 1138. Some of the original building survives, notably the Refectory which is 100ft long and built of flint and Caen stone. It is still used as a refectory today. The old gatehouse houses the school offices and the c12th guest hall now serves as the College Chapel.

All the sites to be visited in Dover are within easy walking distance of each other.

Afternoon tea has been arranged in Dover.

If time permits it may be possible to make a brief visit to the Parish Church of St Mary.

**TICKETS:** Members £10.00; non-members £10.10; students £6.50 to include administration, coach, gratuity, afternoon tea and admission to the Roman Painted House. You may deduct 40p if you hold a free ticket to the latter. Please send cheque with SAE to Mrs Jean West, 123 Ewell By Pass, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2PX (tel 01-393 8970) not later than 15th August to enable final arrangements to be completed

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## **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

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On the 17th March, the Conservation Committee held its One Hundredth meeting. Although commencing with a short business meeting, the occasion was mainly a social event. It was held in the recently restored Guildford Guildhall. Most of the present members of the Committee attended together with several past members, including two past-Chairmen, and the Society's President, the Viscountess Hanworth. The Committee was praised for its work and achievements over twenty years.

### **Building Representatives — Appeal for Volunteers** **Dennis Turner, Chairman**

The Society's Conservation Committee urgently needs more recruits to the team of Local Buildings Representatives. These volunteers keep watch and prepare comments on developments affecting the historic building fabric, townscape and landscape of the county so that the Society may make representations to planning authorities and others when desirable.

Each volunteer acts as a local, area or specialist representative covering some agreed part of a district council area or some specialized type of problem. He or she is asked to comment on such things as

Listed Building or Conservation Area Consent Applications for demolition or alteration;

Major developments affecting listed buildings or their environment or affecting conservation areas;

The designation of or proposed alterations to conservation areas;

Local plans; and

Topic papers (e.g. on redundant farm buildings).

Notice of such matters is usually received by the committee from local planning authorities or from the Council for British Archaeology and is passed on for comment to the Local Buildings Representative in the area concerned. The notification received by the committee is always incomplete and often late: consequently, representatives are asked to keep abreast of developments taking place in their own areas and not to wait for central notification. Keeping a watch on the official notices in the local press which give details of applications is important and it is useful if representatives can visit local council offices from time to time to inspect plans and the details of applications.

If you think you might like to help with this work, you do not have to commit yourself straight away. A full briefing document will be sent to enquirers. Among other things,

the briefing note outlines the criteria which should be considered when faced with an application to demolish or alter a listed building and the different ways in which comments can be presented.

Much of the work of the Conservation Committee is done in conjunction with the local representatives outside the meetings. However, the committee meets approximately every two months at a range of venues across the county in order to review cases and discuss policy. Local representatives are welcome to attend any of these meetings and are sent agendas and minutes.

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## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

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### Recent accessions to the Society's Library

#### SURREY GENERAL

Bosworth, G F. Surrey. Cambridge County Geographies. CUP 1909. Donation

#### SURREY LOCAL

Baker, Rowland G M. Thameside Molesey. Barracuda 1989. Presentation copy  
Barnes & Mortlake HS. Barnes & Mortlake remembered. Hendon Pub Co 1988. Donation

Bashall, Henry St John Hick. The Oak Hamlet. 1900. Donation

Bramley & Graffham — a short history. 1977 Pamphlet. Donation

Brooks, Joyce Y. Up river from Kingston to Windsor. Thames Valley Art Prod

Davis, Dorothy. The Egham picture book. Egham-by-Runnymede HS 1988. Donation

Gould, J. Old Merrow — a facsimile. Peter Knee 1988 reprint of 1948 Ed Pamphlet. Donation

Jackson, Alan A. Dorking railways. Dorking LHS 1988 Pamphlet. Donation

Morris, Gerald A. The Mizens of Mitcham Merton Lib S 1989. Donation

National Trust. Polesden Lacey 1978 Pamphlet. Donation

Orton, Clive. Recent archaeological work in Carshalton. Report by author. Donation

Pulford, J S L. George & Mary Meredith in Weybridge, Shepperton & Esher 1849-61. Carshalton LHS 1989 Pamphlet. Donation

Raper, Anthony C. Weyhill Fair. Barracuda 1988 Limited Edition no: 30

Surrey Archaeological Society. The Roman temple at Wanborough. SAS 1988

Thomas Brothers. The Story of Outwood Mill. 1971 Pamphlet. Donation

Tyrwhitt-Drake, Diana & others. Effingham and the Spanish Armada 1588-1988. Effingham Parish Council 1988. Donation

Vardey, Edwin (ed). History of Leatherhead. A town at the crossroads. Leatherhead & District LHS 1988

Walton & Weybridge LHS Paper No: 26. Monumental Inscriptions of St Peter, Hersham. 1988. Donation

#### GENERAL

Allason-Jones, Lindsay. Earrings in Roman Britain. BAR 201 1989

Ashurst, John & Nicola. Practical building conservation. English Heritage Technical Handbooks Vols. 1-5. 1, Stone Masonry; 2, Brick Terracotta and Earth; 3, Mortars, plasters & renders; 4, Metals; 5, Wood, glass & resins. Gower Press 1988

Bailey, Richard N & others. Dowsing and church archaeology. Intercept 1988

Binks, Gillian & others. Visitors welcome. A manual on the presentation and interpretation of archaeological excavation. HMSO 1988

Clemons, Peter (ed). Anglo Saxon England 17. CUP 1989

Carver, Martin. Underneath English towns. Batsford 1987

Drury, P J. The Mansio and other sites in the South eastern sector of Caesaromagus. CBA 1988 CBA Research Report 66. Chelmsford Arch Trust Report 31

Green, Miranda. The Gods of the Celts. Alan Sutton 1986

Henig, Martin. Religion in Roman Britain. Batsford 1984

Hodges, Richard & Hopley, Brian (joint eds). The re-birth of towns in the West. AD 700-1050. CBA RRno: 68 CBA 1988

Horne, Jonathan. English tin glazed tiles. Pub by author 1989

Kenworthy, Mary Anne. Preserving field records. Archival techniques for archaeol and anthrop. U Penn 1985  
McK Clough, T H and Cummings, W A (joint eds). Stone axe studies Vol 2. CBA RR 67 CBA 1988  
Serjeantson, D and Waldron, T (joint eds). Diet & craft in towns. BAR 199 1989  
Slater, Elizabeth and Tate, James. Science and archaeology. Glasgow 1987. BAR 196 i & ii 1988  
Southern History 10. A review of History of Southern England. S H Soc 1988  
Webster, Graham. The British Celts and their gods under Rome. Batsford 1986

#### GENERAL — LOCAL

Alston, Michael (ed). Aspects of the medieval landscape of Somerset. Somerset CC 1988  
Bishop, M C and Dore, J N. Corbridge — Excavation of the Roman fort and town 1947-80. English Heritage 1989  
Down, Alec. Chichester excavations 6. Phillimore 1989  
Edelstein, T T. Vauxhall Gardens. Yale UP Pamphlet  
Evison, Vera I. The fifth century invasions, south of the Thames. U of London Athlone Press 1965  
Fulford, Michael. The Silchester Amphitheatre. Excavations 1979-85. Britannia Monograph 10. Soc for Prom of Roman Studies 1989  
Fuller, M J and Spain, R J. Watermills: Kent & borders of Sussex Vol 11 Kent AS Monogr Ser 1986  
Gaffney, Vincent and Tingle, Martin. The Maddle Farm Project. BAR 200 1989  
Hurst, H R. Gloucester. The Roman & later defences. Glos Arch Reports 2 Glos Arch Pubns 1986  
Lewis, Elizabeth and others. Medieval Hall houses of the Winchester area. Winchester City Museum 1988  
Mason, D J P. Excavations at Chester 26-42 Lower Bridge Street. Chester City C & Grosvenor Museum 1985  
Pollard, R J. The Roman pottery of Kent. Kent AS Vol V Monograph Series KAS 1989  
Sherlock, D and Woods, H. St Augustine's Abbey. Report on excavations 1960-78 Kent AS Vol VI Monograph Series KAS 1988  
Sumner, Heywood. The Ancient earthworks of Cranborne Chase. Alan Sutton 1988  
Ward, S. Excavations at Chester 12 Watergate Street. Excav Report 5 Chester City C & Grosvenor Museum 1988

#### Inter-Library Loans

The recent decision to charge £5.00 for every application to the British Library seems excessive for the supply of photocopies only.

From 1st May, photocopy requests will be charged at £3.00 per item but books will remain at £5.00 per item to cover return postage.

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### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

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Joint Publication No. 3 of London & Middlesex Archaeological Society and Surrey Archaeological Society, *Excavations in Southwark 1973-76, Lambeth 1973-79*, will shortly be published and circulated free to members. In order to avoid unwanted duplication and postage costs, those who are members of *both* Societies will only be sent one copy unless they specifically request a second. Such requests should reach Mrs Maureen Roberts, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3SX, before 1 December 1989. Copies of earlier reports on work in Southwark are also still available from Mrs Roberts: Joint Publication No: 1, *Southwark Excavations 1972-74 (1978)*, at £6 + £2 post and packing, and K M Kenyon, *Excavations in Southwark* (SAS Research Paper No. 5, 1959), at 50p + 45p post and packing.

## **Kent Archaeological Society Occasional Publications Reciprocal Publications**

Following a suggestion from Kent Archaeological Society, it has been agreed by Council that publications other than the annual volume shall be available to members of both Societies at the members discounted rate. Listed below are the Occasional Papers of Kent Archaeological Society which are now available to Surrey Archaeological Society members at the lower price. Orders should be sent to: Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX but cheques made payable to 'Kent Archaeological Society'.

It is hoped that similar arrangements will be made with other archaeological societies in neighbouring counties.

### **Monograph Series**

Vol I G W Meates, *The Roman Villa at Lullingstone, Kent. I. The Site.* 28x22cm, pp219, 35figs, 30pls (+ 2 in colour), full-colour jacket, cased, £18.00 (KAS members price: £7.50) + £2.00 p&p.

II M J Fuller and R J Spain. *Watermills (Kent and the Borders of Sussex).* 28x22cm, pp203, 90figs, 4pls, full-cover jacket, cased. £20.00 (KAS members price: £15.00) + £2.00 p&p.

III G W Meates. *The Roman Villa at Lullingstone, Kent. II. The wall paintings and finds.* 28x22cm, pp xxx+330, 91figs, 7pls (+ 18 in colour), full-colour jacket, cased. £35.00 (KAS members price £20.00) + £3.00 p&p.

Special offer: *Lullingstone I and II*, £45.00 (KAS members price: £30.00) + £5.00 p&p.

IV D Sherlock and H Woods. *St Augustine's Abbey: Report on excavations 1960-78.* 28x22cm, pp xxxi+336, 94figs, 52pls (+ 3 in full colour), full-colour jacket, cased. £30.00 (KAS members price: £20.00) + £3.00 p&p.

V R J Pollard. *The Roman pottery of Kent.* 28x22cm, pp xxxviii + 247, 69figs, full-colour jacket, cased. £30.00 (KAS members price: £20.00) + £2.00 p&p.

### **Occasional Volumes**

(Ed) A Detsicas. *Collectanea Historica: Essays in memory of Stuart Rigold.* 28x22cm, pp xxx+315, 66figs, 64pls, jacket, cased. £20.00 (KAS members price: £7.50) + £3.00 p&p.

(Eds) A Detsicas and N Yates. *Studies in modern Kentish history presented to Felix Hull and Elizabeth Melling.* 28x22cm, pp xv+230, 7figs, 20pls, full-colour jacket, cased. £20.00 (KAS members price: £5.00) + £2.00 p&p.

### **Records Volumes**

XXII C R Cuncer. *Lost glass from Kent churches.* 22.5x14cm, pp xvi+170, 9figs, 15pls in full-colour, full-colour jacket, cased. £16.00 (KAS members price: £5.00) + £2.00 p&p.

XXIII (Ed) C W Chalklin. *New Maidstone Gaol Order Book, 1805-1823.* 22.5x14cm, pp186, 2pls, jacket, cased. £10.00 (KAS members price: £5.00) + £2.00 p&p.

XXIV (Ed) K L Wood-Leigh. *Kentish Visitations of Archbishop Warham and his deputies, 1511-12.* 22.5x14cm, pp xvii+343, frontispiece, jacket, cased. £20.00 (KAS members price: £12.00) + £3.00 p&p.

XXV (Ed) H C F Lansberry. *Sevenoaks Wills Inventories in the reign of Charles II.* 22.5x14cm, pp xxxvi+268, 8 pls, two-colour jacket, cased, £24.00 (KAS members price: £20.00) + £2.00 p&p.

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## **EXCAVATION COMMITTEE**

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### **Re Grant applications**

Please note the correct telephone number for Judie English is 0483 276724 — See Bulletin 239 for full details.

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## LOCAL GROUP AND SOCIETY NEWS

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### Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society

To commemorate Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society's 20th Anniversary, a Symposium on Archaeology in Kingston will be held on the 14th October 1989.

Details will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

### Surrey Roman Villa Group

An all-day visit has been arranged for Saturday, 7th October 1989 to visit the replica Anglo-Saxon Village at West Stour and the Anglo-Saxon Ship burial site at Sutton Hoo.

The coach will start from Guildford Park Road (BR station rear entrance) at 7.30, with a pick-up point opposite Dorking Halls at 8.00 a.m. The cost £10.00 per head includes coach fare, all gratuities, entrance fees and fees for guide. Take a picnic lunch. There will be a tea stop at Ipswich.

For further details and booking form please send stamped addressed envelope (size 9" x 4") to George Shearer, 18 Christchurch Gardens, Epsom, KT19 8RU (Tel. 03727 29128)

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## EXCAVATION NOTES

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### Staines, The Mackay Securities site (TQ03357153)

**Phil Jones**

Three phases of archaeological work funded by the developers, Mackay Securities Ltd were permitted on a c1300m square site on the corner of Market Square and Clarence Street at the west end of the High Street. A properly excavated sample trench (c1%) of 13th century to modern stratigraphy, and only half as much again of the post-Roman and early medieval deposits, was dug in the only area that was available prior to demolition. Then followed two phases of monitoring the digging-out of the basement lowerings by machine, first to c2/3m, and then to c4-6m below modern ground level. The most important topographical feature of the site was that it had lain directly over part of the north-eastern shore and bank of the confluence of the Rivers Colne and Thames, that existed from late Roman times to the end of the medieval period.

Prehistoric peats and fluvial clays were found across the whole of the site lying against a slope of Floodplain Terrace Gravel, and became more shallow towards the north-east corner where, presumably, the contemporary shoreline was nearby. No artefacts were found in the alluvium except for some chipped wood debris and axe-cut boughs in the peat, but these could have been transported some distance by floodwater.

The earliest hand-dug feature was a deep and wide ditch of the late 1st or early 2nd century that ran diagonally across the north-east corner of the site. Many leather off-cuts or parts of articles (including at least one sandal) were recovered from its lower fills. The ditch had become choked by the early 2nd century and was finally levelled by a fluvial clay. Almost all other RB deposits that must once have existed on the site must have been swept away by floodwater since only one other small and eroded feature of RB date was found.

After perhaps several Roman and later flooding episodes, some topographical stability was established, and the first deposit along the newly-created watercourse, whose bank lay diagonally through the south-western half of the site, was a near-shore shingle that included rolled 4th century sherds and tile fragments, as well as some Saxon grass/chaff-tempered sherds. No other Saxon features were noted, although some large piles that were driven into the foreshore could be late Saxon, even though they would still have been visible in the second half of the 11th century. Dendochronological determination of their felling date is still awaited.

A gully, a ditch, and a possible clay-quarrying hollow, were found in the sample trench, and more of the ditch was revealed during monitoring. All had been dug when only the south-west corner was under water, but were soon choked by the peats and organic clays of a new fluvial regime in which the whole area of the site was again under water, and backwater marshy deposits accumulated. The remains of piles that had been set along the edges of the ditch, and a further pile (an old timber with a rectangular mortice) driven through the base of the gully, were also buried at this time. The earliest of the peats and muds contained 11th/early 12th century potsherds including some from imported red-painted pitchers of 'Pingsdorf-type', but the marshy deposits continued to accumulate across the site until the late 13th or 14th century, and in the south-west of the site until the 16th century. A notable find from an early peaty fill of the gully was a turned wooden bowl. Over 150 wooden piles were recorded during the machined removal of the marshy deposits (many more had undoubtedly been present), some of which had been set in lines at right angles to the riverbank. These may have served as groynes.

Along the south-east edge of the site, adjacent to the Market Square, a gravel road aligned north-east/south-west, was exposed, and its lowest metallings sealed a horizon of the peaty clays that contained c early to mid 12th century potsherds. When first laid, the north-west edge of the road had been revetted with pilés and horizontal beams, but these became buried beneath more of the accumulating marsh deposits. Remetalling from the 12th to the 14th century had built up the accumulated surfaces to over 1.5m in height, and this had enabled the road surface to remain above the marshland. The road was probably that of the western extension of the High Street leading to the medieval bridge over the Thames, which is first mentioned in 1222 as being in need of repair. There seems to have been some domestic activity along the roadside edge in the late 13th and 14th centuries since there were some pits, wells, hearths, and backlands yards, but no trace of any walling was found. One 14th century pit accommodated a barrel, that still retained its hoops and staves, and this contained distinctive fills of limy and matted organic material. Analysis may indicate the contents and purpose of the pit, which may have been for tanning.

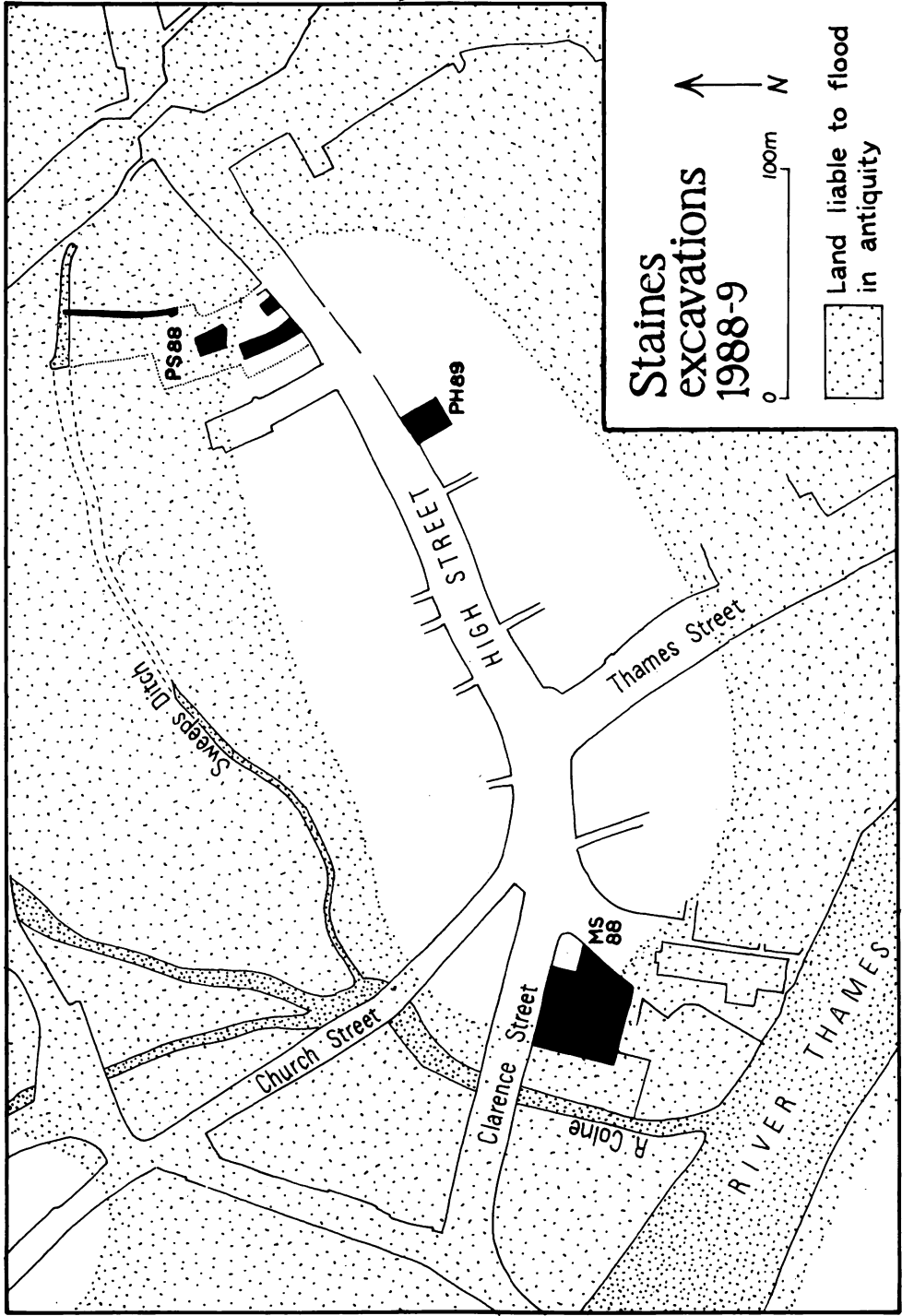
The earliest roadside buildings found were of 15th century date, but little of these could be recorded other than in the sample trench. This revealed some internal wall foundations that surrounded a small partly-sunken room, which had been filled with roof tile debris when the building was destroyed. In the mid to late 16th century the whole area of the site seems to have been redeveloped, and substantial brick buildings were erected along the street frontage. The Bush Inn was built in the angle of land between the Colne, the Thames, and the bridge approach road. Its north-eastern walls which fronted on to a narrow lane that led to a small bridge over the Colne, were examined during monitoring. The sample trench revealed some walls and floors of the Bush Tap ale-house on the opposite side of the lane, and further north-east, some of the foundations of Smiths Buildings, the Bush Barracks, and the Red Lion Inn were examined and recorded. By this time the bank of the Thames lay c60m to the south-west of the site, and the Colne was canalised further north, and also no longer ran through the site. All of these street frontage buildings and some of their backlands out-buildings survived, with modifications, until 1828/32, when another comprehensive redevelopment encompassed their destruction, the moving of the site of the Thames bridge 130m upstream, and the laying-out of Clarence Street over the foundations of the Red Lion in order to reach it.

In addition to the knowledge gained about the topography and development of medieval Staines close to the Thames bridge, the sample trench provided the best sequence of late 11th to early 13th century pottery so far recovered from the town. Post-excavation work is at an advanced stage, but because of other urgent work it is not possible to say when a full report can be completed and published.

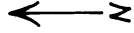
### **Staines, 78-88 High Street, (TQ03657167)**

**Phil Jones**

Archaeological work was funded by the Prudential and the Woolwich Building Society for a redevelopment site between the High Street and Sweeps Ditch (once the northern boundary of the properties involved). The zones of the street frontage and near-backlands were sampled in three area excavations, and a trench was excavated



# Staines excavations 1988-9



0 100m

Land liable to flood  
in antiquity



by machine through the remainder of the backlands to reach Sweeps Ditch. This was the first reasonably excavated site to have taken place on the north side of the High Street. Although it lay between one and two hundred metres east of the presumed foci of the Roman and medieval towns, evidence of occupation along the street frontage in the 1st and 2nd centuries, possibly the 4th century, again in the 13th and 14th centuries, and from the 16th century until modern times, was found. No coherent plans of the Roman and medieval buildings could be obtained however, because of post-medieval cellaring.

During prehistoric times and until the early post-medieval period, the site lay along the north-west edge of the gravel island that underlies the High Street and adjoining areas, and extends back to its junction with Clarence Street (see fig.). Up until the Roman period the northern half of the site was part of the floodplain and incorporated several east-west underwater channels. At the north end near Sweeps Ditch, a deposit of ash and calcined flints lay on what must have been a bar that stood above the level of the water at the time of deposition. No artefacts were found, but it should be possible to obtain a radio-carbon date for the ash. An east-west ditch immediately south of the ash and flints, was probably contemporary, and both had been sealed by a buff fluvial clay. This clay was deposited over all of the northern two-thirds of the site, and although a few sherds of prehistoric pottery (probably LBA or IA) were found in sections cut through its deeper parts, nearer to its surface were large sherds of Roman tile and pot. During the earliest Roman occupation therefore, this clay was still unconsolidated, and was probably still below water.

The earliest evidence of occupation on site of the gravel island was Roman deposits of early to mid-Flavian date. It is uncertain whether there were any buildings at this time because of the damage wrought by cellaring. Intact deposits did however survive in one small area close to the modern street frontage. Here, various early dumped deposits had not been levelled for the laying of floors until the latest 1st or early 2nd century, and not until after further flooding had transported some of the buff fluvial clay over Flavian layers, pits, and ditch features. On the eastern side of the site, this clay extended as far as the modern High Street, and must also lie below it. Although only parts of the earliest clay floors and associated hearths remained intact, it can be inferred that the western half of the frontage area continued to be occupied throughout most of the 2nd century, since the near-backlands contexts of wells, rubbish pits, yards, and household midden layers spanned the whole of the century, and contained much potsherds, animal bone, and small finds. A significant topographical feature was a ditch of mid to late 2nd century date that terminated to the south where the quantity of domestic features and of finds had been most concentrated. There may have been a plot boundary, and if so, it is interesting to note that it lay parallel with, and equidistant from, the brick garden walls of 18th century date that defined this area of excavation. Neither the walls or the Roman ditch were at right angles to the modern High Street, but were aligned obliquely from it. The walls may have preserved the lines of an earlier property division, perhaps of the medieval period. An east-west ditch of 2nd century date found further north in another excavated area, was at right angles to the north-south Roman ditch, and could have been the northern boundary of the street frontage properties. Further north from it, the ground was subject to flooding, and this was the eventual fate of the east-west ditch which became choked with fluvial clays in the late 2nd or early 3rd century. In the eastern excavated area adjacent to the modern street frontage, there were few, if any, deposits of 2nd century date after the accretion of fluvial clay at the beginning of the century. This area, like much of the northern end of the site, seems to have remained marginal, with none of the build-up of occupation deposits found further west. The eastern limit to the expansion of *Pontibus* during the 2nd century, may therefore, have lain through the site.

As with 73-75 High Street (see above note), the nature of late Roman occupation is, as yet, uncertain, not least because none of the finds have been washed. Features and layers with 4th century pottery may be of that date, but since they could be found to contain later artefacts after preliminary post-excavation analysis, it seems best to avoid descriptions of them in this note.

An interesting aspect of these excavations was that the London to Silchester highway did not pass through the site. Since it has never been found in excavations on the south side of the High Street (despite assertions to the contrary) it is now certain that it must lie beneath the modern road.

A few early to mid-Saxon, and late Saxon sherds were recovered from medieval and later contexts, and at least one pit was of mid-Saxon date. The first evidence of a revival of town life here, was street frontage occupation in the 13th century when, presumably, settlement had extended west from the core of the medieval town closer to the bridge. Little sense of the beamslots and hearths etc. could be made however, because of damage caused by later cellaring. In the small eastern trench excavated close to the High Street, over two hundred post and stakeholes were found, but with an apparently random distribution. Since no floors or walls were found associated with them, it is possible that they were used for the hitching of livestock, since the site lay east of where the end of the town market had been in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. In the backlands to the north several wells and rubbish pits of 13th and 14th century date were found, but none of the late medieval period. An east-west ditch filled in the early 14th century was located c35m from the street frontage, and lay parallel with the wider channels of approximately the same date of infill, c50m and c60m further north in more low-lying areas that were periodically flooded. A 15th century clay floor and associated tile-on-edge hearth sealed the palimpsest of posts and stakeholes by the street frontage, but little survived of the buildings that they had belonged to, or indeed, of any others, because of the foundations and cellars of buildings constructed along the High Street in the 16th and 17th centuries. The present line of Sweeps Ditch was half-sectioned and found to have been cut in the post-medieval period. It may have been in existence when Stukely described Staines as being 'fenced round with a ditch' (Itinerarium Curiosum 1776), but it could be of later date.

### Staines, 73-75 High Street (TQ03627160)

Phil Jones

Three weeks of hectic excavation in January 1989 were permitted within a c200m square redevelopment, and was funded by the Central Union Property Group. The site lay along the southern frontage of the High Street, and north of earlier excavations which had revealed late RB buildings, Saxon ditches, and a riverbank (Crouch 1976; Jones 1982). Immediately west of the site is Barclays Bank where salvage work in 1969 by M Rendell recovered a great deal of Roman material, including a cavalry cheek-piece.

The earliest occupation on the present site was of early to mid-Flavian buildings along the High Street edge. Their street frontage lies beneath the pavement of the road which almost certainly overlies the main London to Silchester highway of Roman times. The sequence of re-floorings and re-building contexts that overlay them were highly complex, and continued until the late 2nd century, if not later. There was too little time to do more than sample and salvage excavation on most of these, although a better recorded sequence was obtained of those of Hadrianic to Antonine date. The buildings seem always to have been of timber, and with floors of clay that overlay prepared gravel bases. Wall plaster fragments were rare, but there was much burnt daub, some of which bore impressed chevron patterns. Some ovens, hearths, and

The vulnerability of Staines to flooding in antiquity was clearly evident, in that the southern ends of buildings in the western half of the site had been fluviially eroded in the middle of the 2nd century. This had not prevented further building on the site, and the eroded areas were soon levelled with midden dumps. Features of 1st and 2nd century date in the backlands included a quarry dug for gravel, wells, rubbish pits, and a possible clay-lined cistern.

4th century occupation on site was mostly represented by sherds within a 'blackearth' deposit that overlay earlier Roman activity. Because all the finds have not yet been examined, it is not yet possible to determine whether any late Roman buildings had been present. Some floors at about the right horizon were found, but they could conceivably have been medieval, or even Saxon.

A linear gully lying parallel with, and c6m south from the modern street frontage was almost certainly filled in the Saxon period. It lay immediately south of a beamslot or eaves-drip gully filled in the 12th or early 13th century, and this in turn lay parallel and adjacent to some flint foundations of a 13th or 14th century wall. South from this apparently long-lived boundary/building line was a backlands area with pits that included a square and timber-lined well of 14th century date, and some irregular beamslots that may have been the foundations of an out-building. A large clay-lined well had been dug through the filled beamslots in the 15th century, and this may have been contemporary with a rectangular tile-on-edge hearth immediately north from it. Post-medieval levelling and modern foundations had destroyed all trace of the building(s) to which these and other late medieval features belonged.

The whole of the site has since been 'basemented' with the consequent loss of the rest of the archaeological deposits.

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## MEETINGS AND EXHIBITIONS

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### **1st July-26th August**

"All in a Day's Work": exhibition at Chertsey Museum. People at work: paintings and drawings by Chris Howkins. Tues & Thurs 2-5, Wed, Fri & Sat 10-1, 2-5

### **17th July-29th July (except Sundays)**

The Old Palace Croydon for centuries the residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury will be open to the public. Tours are arranged by Friends of the Old Palace. Doors open 1.45 p.m. Last tour commences at 2.30 p.m. (No unaccompanied tours.) Admission £2.50: OAPs and children £1.50 to include tea in the Undercroft. Parties welcome by prior notice — ring 01-680-5877.

### **27th July**

"The History of Syon House" by Miss Andrea Cameron. A talk to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute at 8 p.m.

### **28th July**

"Travels in the Middle East". A talk by Patricia Wilkinson to the Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8 p.m.

### **30th July**

"Rustic Sunday" at the Old Kiln Museum, Tilford. Visit the Rural Life Centre and see demonstrations of crafts. Admission £2.50. Children £1.25 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.

### **1st Aug**

SAS visit to Shoreham. See Bulletin 239 for details.

### **6th Sept**

"The Celts". A talk to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society by Elizabeth Eames at St Mary's Church Hall, Kingston Road, Ewell at 8 p.m.

Please note change of date; As the Symposium to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Kingston Archaeological Society is also being held on the 14th October, the Symposium on recent work in South-West London will now be held on the 2nd December. Details will follow.

**Editor's Note:** Comments on the new layout of the Bulletin have been appreciated. The production of the Bulletin involves a co-ordinated chain of people starting at Castle Arch where the address labels are printed and Maureen Roberts nobly types the copy: Ian Dormor, who prints the Bulletin and to whom credit is due for the "new look"; George Atherstone who fills the envelopes ready for dispatch and last, but not least Godfrey and Rose Bullen at Holmbury St Mary Post Office, who kindly stick the stamps on and dispatch the envelopes. Our thanks are due to them all.

The content however relies on members and contributions are always welcome — to inform, interest or to enthuse and encourage. Illustrations, drawings and photographs can be reproduced. We have introduced a new section entitled **Miscellany** and, space permitting, we will include members' requests for information, books, and equipment or which are available for loan, sale or exchange.

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**Next Issue:** Copy to the Editor required by 5th August 1989 for September Bulletin. Issue date:  
1st September