



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

Bulletin

Number 247

May 1990

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell

Lord Lieutenant for Surrey, 1973-86
 Honorary Vice-President. Surrey Archaeological Society

Jack Hamilton died on January 31st, aged 78. At his special request there was no public pomp nor ceremony to mark his going. One of the national dailies described him as "a courtier who raised a successful dairy herd". I think he would have enjoyed that, for he had all the simplicity and directness of a great Roman Republican senator. But he had much else besides, including a deep understanding of and care for his fellow men; and his public service on their behalf covered an immense field. Up and down the county there is a network of men and women who worked with him, respected him, and loved him. They are sad that he is no longer there. (RH)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1990/91 became due on 1st April. The current rates are as follows:

Ordinary Member	£15.00
Associate Member	£1.00
Junior Member (with <i>Collections</i>)	£3.00
Institutional Member (Overseas)	£30.00
Institutional Member (U.K.)	£20.00
Junior Member living at same address as Ordinary Member (but without Society Publications)	free of charge

If you have not already paid your subscription by standing order, would you kindly send your remittance to Mrs Susan Janaway at Castle Arch. Please note that in view of high postage costs, personal reminders are not issued to members. If you decide that you do not wish to renew your subscription, would you please let Susan Janaway know.

COUNCIL NEWS

Council has proposed the formation of a Policy Committee comprising the Officers and Committee Chairmen (or Vice-chairmen or Secretary) to enable detailed discussions of issues to take place for which adequate time cannot be found at Council meetings, and to ensure regular contact between heads of committees.

The proposal was accepted with provision to allow additional members to be co-opted if considered beneficial.

Mr L F Guillem has now taken over as chairman of the Finance Committee following the death of the late Mr Alan Wylie.

Guildford Castle — Training Excavation

Matthew Alexander

Surrey Archaeological Society in conjunction with Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council will be running a full time research/training excavation at Guildford Castle from the 2nd to 22nd July inclusive. The excavation will be directed by Rob Poulton and volunteer diggers, experienced or otherwise, will be very welcome. It would help organisation if intending volunteers could write in advance, to the Hon. Secretaries, at Castle Arch, informing them of the dates on which they would be available (preferably 5 or more consecutive days). Volunteers will also be welcome on an 'ad hoc' basis, subject to there being room in the trenches.

Guildford Castle has its origins in a motte and bailey constructed probably a few years after the Norman Conquest. It would seem likely that it was intended to control the town. Guildford had become the major commercial centre of West Surrey and the possession of a mint at this date suggests that it held the status of a borough. As the only royal castle in Surrey, Guildford naturally became the centre of the king's administration for the county: the massive 12th century keep which stands on the mound became the gaol for both Surrey and Sussex. Henry III's charter of 1257, stipulating that the county court should meet at Guildford for ever, effectively recognised it as the county town.

The keep on the motte was, however, considered a separate establishment from the buildings within the walls of the bailey. The former was known as the 'castrum' and the latter as the 'palatium' or 'the King's Houses'. It was in these domestic buildings that the royal court would stay when at Guildford, which in the reign of King John and his son Henry III was quite frequently. Probably at first of timber, many of the buildings were reconstructed in stone — mostly the local chalk. A serious fire in 1254 led to an extensive rebuilding under John of Gloucester, Henry III's master mason. In 1256, for example, he built the castle gate which is almost certainly the surviving Castle Arch.

Life in the castle would have revolved around the Great Hall with kitchens and so on beyond the lower end and the king's personal quarters beyond the upper. A large number of records survive which detail expenditure on construction, repairs, and decorations of the various buildings. They included cloisters, gardens, and at least two chapels: the king's (St Stephen's), and the queen's (St Katherine's). A survey of 1332 provides a full list of the chambers, showing it to be one of the most luxurious royal residences of its day.

Unfortunately, by this date Guildford Castle had already entered its long decline. Following the death of Henry III in 1272 the castle was held in dower by his widow, Eleanor of Provence. When her little grandson, Prince Henry, died at Guildford in 1274 she founded a Dominican Friary just to the north of the town. However, royal visits to Guildford Castle became fewer and fewer (the moated hunting lodge in Guildford Park was preferred), and of course Windsor was a good deal more convenient for travel from Westminster by river. By the end of the 14th century the King's Houses at Guildford Castle were in ruins and only a few fragments survive above ground today.

Guildford Borough Council are looking at ways of developing the town centre as a tourist attraction and one of the proposals is to set up an interpretation centre of the castle and its history. Despite very full documentary records, very little is known of the layout and appearance of the palace. Only excavation could reveal this and the area occupied by the present Castle Cliffe Gardens would seem a very profitable site to investigate. Part of one of the square corner bastions survives, with a section of the bailey wall containing the remains of a fireplace. It is quite probable that some of the domestic buildings were located on this site and excavation could also reveal the sequence of their construction.

The dig will therefore throw light on an important but hitherto rather enigmatic

medieval palace and enable its history to be made more accessible to the public. In addition it will provide a badly needed opportunity for younger archaeologists to receive some practical training.

Insurance and Indemnities

R J Webber

Excavation directors and diggers please note:

Excavation Insurance — Directors of excavations are reminded that it is essential that they arrange for insurance cover for the excavation that they are undertaking. For the purpose of insurance the term 'excavation' covers all aspects of excavation where there is a 'third party risk' and not simply 'dirt archaeology'. Under certain circumstances 'fieldwalking' and 'measuring buildings' would require cover. If in doubt, or to register for insurance cover, please contact R J Webber at 8 Kelvin Grove, Hook, Chessington. Telephone: 01-397 4885 (evenings and weekends). Please remember that "COVER AFTER THE EVENT IS TOO LATE!"

Personal Accident Insurance — All volunteers on excavations, including field walking, measuring and other connected activities, should be fully aware that the Society's insurance policy does not cover them for injury or sickness, and, thereby, loss of earnings, should that injury be self inflicted or the result of their own neglect. All volunteers should, therefore, arrange for PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE through their own insurers before they engage in excavation activities. Remember please that if you put a pickaxe through someone else's foot, or they do it to you, that will be all right but if you put it through your own foot then that will be your responsibility and nobody else's! Directors of excavations please bring this matter to the attention of all your volunteer diggers.

Indemnities

Some indemnities required by landowners and contractors go beyond the acceptable liability of Surrey Archaeological Society and its insurance cover for excavations. In future all indemnity forms MUST be signed by one or other of the OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY who have been appointed by The Council of the Society to act in this matter.

A copy of every indemnity required must be forwarded to Mr R J Webber at 8 Kelvin Grove, Hook, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1DP who will, where necessary, clear the terms and conditions with the insurers. A further copy should, at the same time, be sent to the Society's Hon. LEGAL ADVISER.

Local Societies or Groups excavating under Surrey Archaeological Society's insurance cover MUST COMPLY with this procedure. Other excavators would be well advised to take legal advice before signing any form of indemnity.

The following officers of the Society have been authorised by the Council to sign indemnities on behalf of the Society: The President, The Secretaries, The Hon. Treasurer.

LOCAL SOCIETY NEWS

Guildford Group

The Guildford Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society are arranging an exhibition and a series of lunchtime lectures in Guildford during May and June, entitled:

"ASPECTS OF GUILDFORD'S PAST"

The exhibition will be held from 21st May to 29th June at the Guildford Institute of the University of Surrey. Ward Street, Guildford with lunchtime lectures each Monday covering the work of the Guildford Group.

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

The Society has organised a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace and Portchester Castle on Saturday, 12th May, fare £7.50 to include entry fees and tips. For further details contact Mr E Crossland, Oldbarrow, 13 Clockhouse Mead, Oxshott, KT22 0RW

Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust

The Trust has secured a long lease on the former Bagshot Police Station at nos 4-10 London Road, Bagshot, which is to be refurbished as an Archaeology Centre, for occupation in September after expiry of the lease of the Trust's present premises. The new Centre will enable expansion of all post-excavation research facilities and will provide the opportunity for increased public involvement in the Trust's work.

Surrey Industrial History Group

At the invitation of the Somerset I.A. Society, the group will be visiting the Bridgwater area of Somerset and Westonzoiland pumping station in steam on the 13th May, departing Guildford at 08.00 hours. Fare including entrance fees £8.75. Tickets and further details from David Evans, 48 Guildford Park Road, Guildford (tel. 0483-64079).

Waverley Ram: The Group has recently investigated a water wheel driven beam pump in the remains of a brick building fed by water from the artificial lake at Waverley Abbey House, near Farnham. Apart from being buried in undergrowth and other debris, the machinery appeared to be fairly intact and the owners have given permission for a full survey to be conducted.

Gantry Crane at Tilford: The gantry crane rescued in 1976 from a Thames Ditton statue foundry and now located at the Old Kiln Museum, Tilford, has been uncovered and preserved by a small group of SIHG members. The next step is to resite the crane to enable limited movement to demonstrate its method of working. Working parties will be held on Sundays April 29th, May 6th, 17th June and 29th July. Anyone interested should contact Tony Stevens on 0483-65375.

It is hoped to complete the work in time for the AIA Conference to be held in September (see *Bulletin* 246 for preliminary details) (SIHG Newsletter)

Surrey Roman Villa Group

The Group is pleased to announce that Graham Bieron has accepted the office of Chairman in succession to John Leveson Gower who has moved from Surrey to Avon. Graham, who is on the Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society, is a long-standing member of the Group. John remains a member of the Group.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

South London Roads Study: Effect on Conservation Areas and Buildings in Wimbledon, Merton and Morden

Three assessment studies concerning the London area have been published by the Department of Transport. The main points arising are as follows:

- a) A proposal for a new South Circular road, which was to have incorporated the Merton Relief Road, has been abandoned.
- b) A proposed road from Roehampton to Wandsworth, passing under Wimbledon Common and roads in Wimbledon Park, has also been abandoned.
- c) The South London assessment study considers the main transport routes between the M25/M23 interchange and the existing South Circular route between Wandsworth and Streatham.

Three recommended options are considered in the report of the South London study. All three options propose a Wimbledon to Croydon light railway scheme. BR are already considering the closure of the Wimbledon-Croydon line and replacement by a light railway system which would make unnecessary the construction of the Merton Relief Road Stage II underpass and the consequent demolition of buildings in the Conservation Area. Despite this, the Merton Borough Council are reported to be issuing Compulsory Purchase Orders to implement the underpass scheme before May.

Two of the options in the South London study envisage major new road building between Wandsworth and Mitcham along the line of the Wandle Valley. This would cut across Morden Hall Park and could have serious implications for the listed (Grade II) and moated building owned by the National Trust as well as for the park itself. (Wimbledon Society *Newsletter*, February 1990)

VISITS COMMITTEE

Towns in Historic Surrey Lectures April-June Town Walks

We have arranged for guided town walks to see the towns discussed in the lectures. In most cases the walk will be on the Sunday following the lecture, either morning or afternoon, and lasting two or two and a half hours. The exceptions are Reigate, on the Sunday before the lecture and Godalming on the 23rd May, Wednesday evening. Bookings will be taken at the lectures and priority will be given to people attending them, but we may be able to include others, depending on numbers. Details from Miss Josephine Carter, 20 Chaucer Court, Lawn Road, Guildford. Tel: 0483-505502.

Two Reminders

SAS Visits to Poole (1st June) and Leicester and East Midlands (7th-14th July). Limited number of places still available — see *Bulletins* 246 and 242 respectively for details

The Committee are still looking for a new Secretary/Treasurer for 1991. Anyone interested please contact Jean West.

NOTES

Anstiebury Hillfort: A geophysical survey was undertaken during 1989 by the SCC Archaeological team but few anomalies were noted in the interior. Two trial trenches on sloping ground produced nothing but a trench at the top of the hill revealed an IA ditch running approx. E-W and other features, together with a quantity of IA and RB pottery. HMBC has now agreed to fund further work, subject to Ancient Monuments consent.

Staines Road Farm, Shepperton: A crop mark was also investigated during 1989 and found to be a Neolithic ring ditch, possibly a small henge, and considered to be of some importance. Nearby a probable ceremonial way marked out by a double row of large post holes or pits was located and other features, probably also Neolithic, were noted. As a result a full excavation was undertaken, a detailed report of which will be published.

Guildford, Austen Road: Research and Reward

J A Cowie

It is well known that research often starts with the desire to prove some concept wrong or impossible. That is what led me to prove that the house I came to inhabit in Guildford twenty years ago had never been a farmhouse as stated in local folklore.

I began reluctantly because I have never been drawn to indoor searching through possible sources. However, the first document from the Muniment Room was a plan of several estates, dated 1853, showing Watford Farm with its fields one of which was the exact shape of the present Austen Rd/Sydney Rd triangle.

Next Shirley Corke, the archivist, found a plan of this very field dated 1853, cut up into strips fronting on to roads not yet named, with a list of the buyers, their addresses and occupations, and there was a curious gap between acquiring the plots and the first building in 1865. Here Abbey National came to the rescue with a book called "Bricks and Mortals". This revealed that the Freehold Land Society had created this method of 'owning' a small strip so that the butcher, the baker and the candlestick-maker could be said to own land and so qualify for the county franchise. Hitherto only 1 in 16 adult males in Surrey could vote, but now, however small the plot, you had a VOTE! They paid in monthly instalments to the Freehold Land Society which later became the Abbey National.

Only after the Parliamentary Reform Act of 1867 were the plots sold and the houses built. The frontages were only 16.5 ft so several were needed (in our case five) for a small double house. Thus the "triangle" slowly became Guildford's first suburb. In a map of 1871 there were only 10 houses. Several of the original owners were builders, Henry Mills, Thomas Fuller Loe and Charles Ellis and their style can be traced in the architectural variety.

So, when recently I saw a proposed plan of Conservation Areas in this region I was surprised to find it only came to the Epsom Road edge of the triangle. I sent my evidence to John Davey, the Chief Planning Officer. He acknowledged his interest and thanks, and today a revised plan dropped through our letterboxes showing the *whole triangle* in the Conservation Area.

So, keep your research notes — they may come in handy one day! This house is saved for posterity unless the prevalent gales rip the roof off.

EXCAVATIONS

Beddingham Roman Villa, near Lewes, East Sussex

The Field Archaeology Unit of the Institute of Archaeology, University College is continuing its training excavations at Beddingham under the direction of David Rudling, MA BSc FSA MIFA Deputy Director of the Field Archaeology Unit.

Excavation Training Courses will be held from Monday 16th July to Saturday 21st July and from 30th July to 4th August. Archaeological Surveying Training Courses will be held from Monday 23rd July to 28th July and from 6th August to 11th August.

Course fee £75, payable in advance, excluding accommodation. Volunteers are also required for the rest of the excavation. For further details, apply to David Rudling, The

Field Archaeology Unit, c/o 112 Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 7HE.

South Farm, Lightwater

Excavations of the Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site will continue from the 4th August-2nd September 1990 under the direction of G H Cole for the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust.

For further information, apply to The Field Director, Archaeology Centre, 63 High Street, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5AH (telephone 0276-51181).

Old Bridge Street, Hampton Wick, TQ177644 G P Potter & P A Emery

Investigation at the Hampton Wick end of medieval Kingston Bridge took place in August 1989. Five trenches (each approximately 1 x 2.2m) were dug, 2 to 3.5m from the modern riverbank.

The Old Bridge was in existence by 1193, and survived until 1828. In its final form there was a substantial masonry causeway at both ends: that from Hampton Wick was described (c1673) as "wrought up of Stone and Brick (for) 12 yards". Observations were made here in 1983, with excavation of the Kingston approach in 1986/7. (SAC Vol 76 (128) and 78 (144))

Three of the trenches under current investigation lay upstream of the Bridge. The first revealed a section of brick river wall, probably later 18th century. Dumped against this, and in the adjacent trench, were quantities of loose stone and brick, possibly from the 1828 demolition.

Parts of the Bridge causeway were exposed in the two northern trenches. The riverward abutment was represented by a massive brick base, 156cms thick and at least 60cms deep. One block of ragstone was seen on the exposed face. This structure is possibly identified by references to repair work in the extant Bridgewardens' Accounts for the early 1770's.

The inside face of the upstream causeway wall — of mortared Reigate stone — was seen in section. This is presumably medieval, and probably about 1m thick, as observed from both flanking walls in 1983. Infilling the causeway was solid clayey silt — somewhat surprisingly, as previous work on both banks indicated sandy gravel. Nearly 2m of the downstream wall was exposed. There were three construction phases — a probable medieval core, and two slightly offset sections of post-medieval refacing. The latter consisted principally of smallish and rather irregular rag and Reigate stone blocks.

The length of the causeway is now established at over 9.5m and width at c6m. The alignment of the structure is noticeably skewed to the modern bank, and to the opposing (Kingston) approach. This bears out early 19th century plans which show the Bridge turning to the north as it approached Hampton Wick.

MISCELLANY

The Brooking Collection: Charles Brooking urgently needs help with cataloguing new acquisitions to his enormous collection of Victorian and edwardian interior and exterior house fittings. The Collection, gathered together from demolished buildings in the Guildford area over the last twenty years is beginning to be recognised as a definitive assembly, and Thames Polytechnic have offered space at their premises in a Victorian warehouse in Wapping, where Mr Brooking is the Curator.

The cataloguing would be done at Woodhay, White Lane, Guildford. Any help would be welcome. Ring Charles Brooking at Guildford 504555.

Museum of Garden History: Jane Brown will give a lecture entitled "Gardens of a Golden Afternoon" — the story of the collaboration between Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens at the Museum on 12th June at 7 pm. Tickets £3 from Mr J Nicholson c/o Museum of Garden History, Tradescant Trust, Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7JU.

MEETINGS

26th April

"The History of Ripley and Send" A talk by John Slatford to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute at 8 pm

27th April

"Reconstructing Medieval London" A talk by Derrick Keen to the Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8 pm

1st May

SAS Lecture Series — Historic Towns in Surrey

"Kingston upon Thames" by Marion Shipley 8 pm University of Surrey

2nd May

"The Orkneys" A talk by Eve Myatt-Price to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, Ewell at 8 pm

8th May

SAS Lecture Series — Historic Towns in Surrey

"Farnham" by Mrs Pat Heather

15th May

SAS Lecture Series — Historic Towns in Surrey

"Godalming" by Mr John Janaway

15th May

"Holes in the Head" A talk by Tony Waldron to KuTAS at The Heritage Centre, Wheatfield Way, Kingston upon Thames at 8 pm

19th May

SAS Visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry and the Ragged School Museum. See *Bulletin* 246 for details

22nd May

SAS Lecture Series — Historic Towns in Surrey

"Reigate" by Mr David Williams

25th May

"The Roman Port and Town of Ostia" A talk by Nicholas Fuentes to the Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8 pm

29th May

SAS Lecture Series — Historic Towns in Surrey

"Southwark" by Mr Harvey Sheldon

31st May

"Bringing the past alive at Amberley" A talk by Mike Wall to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Literary Institute at 8 pm

1st June

SAS Visit to Poole. See *Bulletin* 246 for details

Editor: Audrey Monk, Bryony Bank, Beech Hill, Hambledon, Nr. Godalming GU8 4HL.
Next Issue: Copy to the Editor required by 5th May for June issue.