



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

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

Bulletin

Number 291

March/April 1995

COUNCIL NEWS

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Those members who pay their subscriptions by Standing Order will find that their subscriptions will be automatically debited from their bank account on or just after 1st April. Would all other members please send their subscriptions to me at Castle Arch. If you wish to contact me, I am at Castle Arch on Mondays and Thursdays, 9.30 – 2.00 (telephone 01483 32454). If you decide not to renew your subscription, would you please let me know.

Susan Janaway

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Appointment of new Assistant Librarian

If any member is a trained/experienced librarian, and would be interested in the post of Assistant Librarian at Castle Arch for 17 hours a week, could they please contact the Honorary Secretaries at Castle Arch for a job description, as soon as possible.

Recent Accessions to the Society's Library

Archaeological evaluations and reports by MOLAS and SCAU have been omitted, but a current list of recent additions is available on request.

SURREY — LOCAL

- Alexander, Mary Guildford Castle under Henry III — Dissertation for MA in Medieval Studies at University of Reading, 1993. Unpublished dissertation 1993
- Barker, JL & DM, A Window on Walton-on-Thames. JL & DM Barker 1994
- Batey, Mavis *and others*, Arcadian Thames. The river landscape from Hampton to Kew. Barn Elms 1994
- Dunne, Nigel, The Redhill story. D Canning, Redhill 1994
- Ford, Steve, RAF Chessington, Surrey. An archaeological evaluation for the MOD. Thames Valley AS 1994
- Graham, KD, Site of new Student Village, West Surrey College of Art and Design, Falkner Road, Farnham:- an archaeological evaluation. KD Graham 1994
- Hall, Melanie & Ford, Steve, Former St John's Vicarage, Church Road, Old Malden, Kingston-upon-Thames. Thames Valley AS 1994
- Hunter, AB de M, Gentlemen of Merstham and Gatton 1519 – 1979. Book Guild 1993
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- Milward, Richard, Wimbledon — a pictorial history. Phillimore 1994
- Perry, JG, Redhill General Hospital, Pendleton Road, Redhill, Surrey. An evaluation report. Sutton Arch Service 1994
- Schupke, Sally A History of Chilworth. Schupke 1994
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- Symes, Michael, William Gilpin at Painshill — the gardens in 1772. Painshill Park Trust 1994
- Tatman, Colin A, The Archaeology of the clay tobacco pipe. XIII The clay tobacco pipe industry in the parish of Newington, Southwark. Edited by Peter Davey. BAR 239 1994

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- Bailey, James & County Planning Dept, Surrey Countryside Strategy 1994-96. With Action Plan. SCC 1994
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GENERAL

- Adam, Jean-Pierre, Roman building: materials and techniques. Batsford 1994
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- Anglo-Saxon England, Edited by Michael Lapidge. Vol 20 CUP 1991; Vol 21 CUP 1992; Vol 22 CUP 1993; Vol 23 CUP 1994
- Barker, Philip, Techniques of archaeological excavation. 3rd edition fully revised. Batsford 1993
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- Brodie, Neil, *The Neolithic-Bronze Age transition in Britain: a critical review of some archaeological and craniological concepts*. BAR 238 1994
- Brunskill, RW, *Traditional buildings of Britain: an introduction to vernacular architecture*. New enlarged edition. Gollancz/Oxbow 1992
- Burkitt, MC, *Prehistory — a study of early culture in Europe & the Mediterranean basin*. CUP 1921
- Campbell, James (ed), *The Anglo-Saxons*. Phaidon 1982, Penguin 1991
- Counce, Stephen, *Oral history and the local historian*. Longman 1994
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- Cleary, AS *Esmonde*, *The ending of Roman Britain*. Batsford 1989
- Egan, Geoff, *Lead cloth seals and related items in the British Museum*. BM Occasional Paper 93. BM 1994
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- Plumridge, A *and* Meulenkamp, W, *Brickwork — architecture and design*. Studio Vista 1993
- Wood, Jason, *Buildings archaeology: applications in practice*. Oxbow Monogr 43 Oxbow 1994

VISITS COMMITTEE

Visit to Blechingley

Sunday 21st May 1995

arranged by Rosemary Hunter (tel: 01483 474777)

If you saw and heard Derek Moore talk about Blechingley at the Chertsey Symposium in November, you will not want to miss this guided tour on Sunday 21st May, 10.30 am – 1.00 pm.

Meet at the Village Pound off A25 in Castle Square, opposite the Adult Education Centre and the Red Lion. The tour will include “behind the scenes” looks at places visitors cannot usually see. We will walk round the remains of the 12th century castle, which is on private land, and stroll down the High Street, round the back of the more important properties to outline the history of the village.

When the railway came through the parish 150 years ago there were 11 pubs, four of which we shall pass on the "energetic" first part to Church House, where Derek will retrace the journey at the turn of the century using slides and selections from his collection of old photographs, prints and maps.

Coffee and biscuits will be included in the nominal charge of £1.00. Derek, the Chairman of the Blechingley Conservation and Historical Society, states "the finer the weather, the shorter will be the slide show".

To reserve your place, please telephone Derek Moore, 01883 742992.

ESSEX

Visit to Coggeshall, Paycocke's and the Essex History Fair at Cressing Temple.

Sunday 11th June 1995

arranged by Josephine Carter (tel. 01483 505502)

Coach Pick ups:

- 8.00 am Guildford: rear entrance of Guildford BR Station in Guildford Park Road
- 8.30 am Dorking: by Mole Valley Council Offices opposite Dorking Halls.
- 8.45 am Reigate: bus stop in London Road by the Red Cross Public House, at the junction with High Street and West Street. Regretfully, by then, the historical name of this pub may have been changed.

Coffee stop at Thurrock Service station.

11.00 am Coggeshall Grange Barn, NT. 1140 AD the oldest timber framed barn in Europe, originally belonging to the Cistercian monastery of Coggeshall. Lunch stop in Coggeshall, where there are several pubs, including the Woolpack, 1665, next to the church, the oldest secular building in the town. The Fleece, next to Paycocke's is about the same age as the house. The Chapel Inn is on the site of an old chapel on Chantry land conveyed to the Fullers and Weavers of the town and demolished in 1795. The White Hart (1489) is a former coaching inn standing at the crossroads of two Roman roads. There is also a place for picnickers.

There is a small Heritage Centre with exhibits of the tambour lace for which the town is famous. The church is usually open. The information office under the Town Clock is open Sunday afternoons from 2 – 4 pm.

Paycocke's opens at 2.00 pm and it is small. Mrs Beckingsale will be expecting us to arrive in small groups after the lunch interval. The pleasant garden is available for people who are visiting. Built about 1500 by Thomas Paycocke, a merchant, there is unusually rich panelling and wood carving, and another display of Coggeshall lace.

3.00 pm Rejoin the coach to travel to Cressing Temple for the biennial Essex History Fair, which we will leave about 5.00 pm.

The Order of the Knights Templar was founded in 1118 AD. After Temple Cowley (Oxfordshire), Cressing was the second estate granted to them (they had 50 in England of 7000 in Europe). In 1147 Stephen added to a previous grant from Matilda, his wife. All that remains of their Cistercian settlement here are the Barley Barn c1200 and the Wheat Barn about 50 years later. They are probably the most outstanding pair of medieval barns in Europe.

TICKETS: Members: £14.00 Non-Members: £15.00 Students: £7.00 to include coach, gratuities, entrance fees and donations, but not morning coffee. *Please remember to bring your National Trust membership card.* The cost of a joint ticket for Coggeshall Grange Barn and Paycocke's is £2.00, and may be bought at the Barn when we arrive.

SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

I A Weekend in the Black Country

Friday evening 9th June until Sunday evening 11th June 1995

Mr Ron Moss, Chairman/Secretary of the Industrial Archaeology Group of the Black Country Society, has agreed to guide us around some of the many interesting I A sites in his area. Accommodation will be at the Ward Arms Hotel, Dudley, where all rooms include private bath, colour TV, trouser press and hair dryer!

The provisional programme is likely to include:-

Friday evening: Arrival for dinner followed by an introductory illustrated talk in one of the hotel's conference rooms.

Saturday and Sunday morning: Visits by coach to local attractions including railways, canals, quarries, steel works, brick making and canal-boat building.

Sunday afternoon: Left for a visit to the outdoor Black Country Museum, which is two minutes drive from the hotel.

The approximate cost will be £98 (£10 extra for single rooms). This includes bed, full English breakfast, two course dinner Friday and Saturday (but excluding lunches), coach travel in the Black Country and entrance fees etc.

Reserve your place now by sending a cheque for £25 per person made out to SIHG to A J Stevens, Marigold Cottage, Halfpenny Lane, Guildford GU4 8PY. Bookings will have to be confirmed and paid in full not later than Monday 10th April 1995.

SURREY HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PROJECT

Work on the Sheepleas at West Horsley finished before Christmas. A number of north/south boundaries divide the area — the parish boundary between the two Horsleys may represent the pre-Domesday division of a larger estate. Slight remains of ridge and furrow were found in the areas known to have been the open fields of East and West Horsley, this phase apparently post-dating lynchets on the sides of the central valley.

The steep and now wooded slope of Green Dene also bears a series of lynchets and, on a different alignment, an eighteenth or nineteenth century formal landscape comprising walks lined with yew or box. Sawpits and charcoal burning areas denote utilisation of the woodland and some quarrying has also taken place. The downland above Green Dene was divided into a number of sub-rectangular fields.

The chronological sequence of these features will become clearer as documentary research progresses.

We are now working on Surrey County Council properties on the scarp slope of the North Downs above Shere. Coombe Bottom, Western Hanger and Netley Plantation are in hand and we intend to move on to Hackhurst Down later in the year.

If anyone would like to join in this work we are out most Sundays — we also need help with documentary research in Guildford Muniment Room.

Judie English — 01483 276724 (evenings and weekends)

Steve Dyer — 0181 541 8091 (daytime).

LITHIC TOOL RESEARCH GROUP

A Group meeting will be held on Saturday 22nd April 1995 at 2.00 pm in the Dorking Christian Centre, Dorking. Enquiries to 081-949-2085.

NOTES

Methodology and Techniques of Archaeological Survey in Surrey; Historic Landscape Studies in Urban Areas Steve Dyer

Historic landscape survey is often seen as being carried out solely in rural areas; this type of study can also be conducted in those parts of the landscape now covered by urban development, albeit with a slightly different approach.

It must be agreed that many of the fieldwork elements of this type of study are not suitable, or indeed necessary, for use in urban areas, but this has the advantage that any such project undertaken may be physically less demanding (particularly as dense undergrowth is unlikely to be encountered). This might make any projects of this nature more suitable for groups or individuals that have an historical, rather than an archaeological, background: surveys in these situations may even have an appeal to those with less mobility than can be required on some of the rural project areas. It should be made clear that any project following these guidelines should be seen as an historic landscape survey and not purely as a local history project, although the latter may lead to the former.

Having stated that the majority of the fieldwork elements normally associated with rural areas would not be necessary, some elements would need to be checked on the ground: this would normally take the form of walking over areas to confirm points raised from documentary or cartographic research. Many of the public parks found in urban areas are surviving remnants of former agricultural land associated with the previous, smaller, settlement; in many cases these parks have been seen to have formed part of the open field system. Experience has shown that where large scale later landscaping for sports use has not taken place, parks have a corrugated surface, indicating surviving evidence of the individual strips within these former open fields. Other features relating to the historic landscape of an urban area may be found in a variety of forms: road and estate lines may follow the pattern of former fields, farm buildings may survive within residential development. Industrial complexes relying on a rural economy may be found in a town centre.

The major elements of work for an historic landscape study of an urban area are those involving documentary, which I won't go into at this stage, but which can involve a degree of specialist knowledge, and cartographic research, that may be carried out by the majority of individuals. Generally by their nature these areas often have a greater number, and better survival of these records than many rural areas. Many of our towns and villages have an historic core, where the older buildings of these settlements often survive; these, in many cases, are offered protection from unsympathetic development by their listing as Conservation Areas. As with all historic

landscape surveys, one of the most accessible maps with which to make a start with the survey is the Tithe Map of the 1830s or 1840s. These list not only the uses of the individual parcels of land, together with their owners and occupiers, but also give field names which can be a very useful indicator of previous land use. Many of the settlements that were villages at the time these tithe awards were completed have subsequently become more major urban centres. From the tithes it is possible to check the land usage at that time and be able to locate those areas not in use for settlement purposes which have now been built on. The first edition Ordnance Survey maps of the 1870s, which were largely surveyed at a much earlier date are a very useful base for comparison with the tithe awards.

Having used these maps as a base it is a fairly simple task to correspond contemporary documents to the known areas. This can then be followed by comparing earlier cartographic sources such as Greenwood, Lindley & Crossley and Rocque, attempting to place documents of the relevant periods to the picture which is beginning to build up from the assembled data.

It has already been stated that the tithe awards list field names; these can often be found incorporated into the later naming of roads or estates. Occasionally where this naming occurs, some previous field or other boundaries may survive, particularly along the rear fence lines to the more recent development. Other features relating to the historic landscape might survive in a number of other locations within urban areas; and this is where the small amount of fieldwork comes into the study.

Having collated information from the research of maps and documents various elements will now have to be checked on the ground. There will be many features to be seen on the ground that other sources of study will not show clearly. Many road lines will indicate continuations with other routes that have now been severed; some will be shown to be hollow ways, indicating a route of some antiquity, many will follow former boundaries and therefore take what appears at first glance, to be a strange alignment. Whilst this may be picked up from modern maps, this can often be more obvious when actually viewed, especially when correlated to older material. The change of contours on roads as they ascend or descend slopes may also be indicative of former boundaries. Indicators of previous features may survive alongside the modern road that give clues to past activities: milestones, boundary markers, field gateposts, conduits over old field ditches, hedgerows, odd pockets of land not brought into the development of an area, bridge abutments, ancient trees and footpaths seemingly leading to nowhere are examples that can often be discerned.

Older building may give clues to previous use, or might have surviving features relating to other activities. Although hard to provenance the source of the material, garden walls may include materials derived from a now demolished structure, as may rockeries and other garden features. Timber used in the construction of former buildings might also be seen reused in later development, often in a pseudo-fashion which can clearly be ascertained not to follow the original construction techniques. Sheds and garages can frequently be seen to contain materials reused in this manner. Although such indications can only give a very tenuous link to previous structures they might lead to identification of documentary information. The aspect of a building may give clues to the shape of the original land holding, or to the alignment of previous tracks and routes. The elevations of some older buildings might bear the scars of outbuildings that have subsequently been removed. these might be indicative of previous uses.

Although this article has only given brief indications of the evidence that can be assimilated through conducting an historic landscape survey in an urban area it is hoped that this will show that such work can be carried out, and that studies of this nature might be seen to add to the current work and have relevance to our

understanding of the county, particularly in those areas which have not previously been thought suitable for this branch of research.

(Reprinted from Surrey Historic Landscape Studies Newsletter no 6)

Ice House at the Convent of the Sacred Hearts, Dorking Road

Richard Warson

Ice houses were introduced to Britain from Italy in the 17th century with an increasing impetus after the Restoration of the monarchy. At first they were used principally to provide ice for summer desserts and cooling wines. Later on it was realised that they could also be used for food storage and preservation.

Ice was obtained from local sources unless winters were mild when it could be brought in from colder areas eg the Lake District or the Fens. It was also imported in the 19th century first from Norway and by 1840 from Wenham Lake in the United States.

Celia Fiennes in her journal of her visits through Surrey in 1708-12 describes that in the garden of a house known as The Elms are 'two mounts cut smoothe, between is a cannall, these mounts are severall steps up under which are ice houses.'

In Autumn 1994 the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society excavated an ice house (TQ 2060). Of red brick and set in an earth mound at the north east end of a long canal, it is of a spherical cup and dome shape and five metres high at maximum. Drainage at the sump bottom was via a vertical lead drain, now badly distorted, some 190mm x 220mm in surface area. The floor of the sump consisted of unmortared red brick. The entrance to the ice well faced north east and was reached by a narrow brick tunnel 2.5m long. Finds were modern but the overall design of the structure appeared to be early 18th century.

The ice house coincides in its location with the description given by Celia Fiennes. English Heritage were contacted and gave the structure a Grade II listing on the basis that it was probably around c 1700 in date and formed part of The Elms Estate visited by Celia Fiennes during her travels through Surrey between 1708 and 1712, though no trace was found of the second mound.

The entrance has now been blocked and covered by placing earth over plastic sheeting. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have stated they will be negotiating the repair and presentation of the listed ice house as part of the planning permission for proposed development of the convent site.

Mediaeval Porphyry Fragment from Guildford

Mary Alexander

One of the most exciting archaeological finds ever made in Guildford has recently come to light. It is only a small piece of green stone with paler green crystals but it has a fascinating history and shows that Guildford Castle was in the forefront of artistic achievement in the 13th century. It is a piece of green porphyry, a very hard stone that is only found in Greece. It was used like marble in classical times for floors, panels on walls and even entire pillars, along with purple porphyry. They were very highly prized, especially the purple which was associated with emperors. In the 12th century the decorative use of porphyry and other coloured stones was revived in Italy for pavements, candlesticks, altars, screens and other parts of churches. All the purple porphyry and most of the green was re-used from Roman buildings. The patterns were made up from pieces of different coloured stone cut in geometric shapes and fitted together like patchwork, usually around a large circular or rectangular slab of porphyry. Examples can be seen in many churches in Rome and the surrounding area. It is called "cosmati" work after one of the families of craftsmen who did the work.

However, it is very rare in this country. The only known examples are at Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral. At Westminster Abbey there is a large and very elaborate pavement in the Sanctuary, laid in 1268 when Henry III was rebuilding the Abbey. It was made by an Italian craftsman who came over here with the materials to make it. The shrine of Edward the Confessor, the pavement around it, the tomb of Henry III and the tombs of some royal children are also in cosmati work.

The piece of green porphyry from Guildford was found in 1981 by the Guildford Group of the SAS when excavating some trenches in the Millbrook triangle before the area was landscaped. I am very grateful to Graham Hayes for bringing it to my attention. The porphyry was very firmly stratified in a layer with 113 sherds of pottery dated to 1250-1300. It is an irregular shape, very roughly triangular and about 2 inches long at most. The top and bottom surfaces are parallel, about seven-eighths inch apart, and have been polished smooth. There are no signs that the other edges have been worked. It could either be a piece salvaged from an Italian classical building for re-use and for some reason discarded, or it may be a piece broken from a large slab or roundel as it was being shaped. It is too thick to be part of a pavement, but it would be the right size for a large panel to go in a screen before an altar. It is very tempting to associate it with the suite of rooms built for Eleanor of Castile in 1268 by Henry III, which included a chapel. The fact that cosmati workers were in Westminster at that date seems to be no coincidence. Although the porphyry was found outside the Castle, on the other side of Quarry Street, its rarity means that it could only have come from the Castle. The cosmati workers may have had a workshop outside the walls, or the steep slope from Quarry Street to the river may have been a convenient place for dumping building rubble during construction.

There is a danger in arguing too much from a single object, but green porphyry is so unusual that it cannot have come here by chance. The stratigraphy makes it definitely later than 13th century, but its movements from a quarry in Sparta to imperial Italy and a thousand years later to Guildford are somewhat mysterious.

Ebenezer Cottage, Walton Street, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey (Funding body: Rushmon Limited) TQ 223553

Evaluation by machine trenching was undertaken by South Eastern Archaeological Services of University College London on land to the rear of Ebenezer Cottage prior to residential development. A number of features were located but all proved to be of 19th or 20th century date. No finds of archaeological interest were discovered.

Sandown Racecourse

**Stephen Wallis
Racecourse Manager**

Sandown Racecourse was once farmland attached to Sandown Priory, whose entire brethren died of the plague in 1338. We can only assume that it remained farmland until the 1860s, since there is no record of any dramatic happenings in the intervening 500 years.

In 1870 the land came up for sale, and a battle royal ensued. Esher had a population of roughly 1800 people at the time, who were filled with horror when they were faced with the possibility of the construction of either a lunatic asylum, or a small town 'complete with a fine church', or, most radical of all, a racecourse to be run by a group of young London Society men who were friends of the Prince of Wales. Incredibly, quite a few people fought long and hard for an asylum in preference to a racecourse, because at the time racecourses epitomised all that was worst about low-life: cheats, crooks and welshers mixing together to pursue both business and pleasure of any kind.

The idea of actually building a racecourse was considered preposterous — particularly on the basis that it would attract the Gentlemen and Ladies of London Society, when it was well-known that such venues were full of the roughest, foulest-mouthed and coarsest members of society, and certainly no place for a lady.

But Sir Wilfred Brett and his young partner Hwfa Williams had already thought their arguments through, and they won the day. How different Esher's history might have been had they lost.

Sandown Park Racecourse held its first meeting on 22 April 1875, and immediately stunned press and public alike with social innovations which helped overcome previous scepticism about the whole racecourse plan. A boundary fence costing £2000 had been erected to enclose the whole estate so that everybody who came racing that day had to pay an admission fee — nobody had ever had to pay to go racing before; but it meant that the public now had a stand from which to both watch the races and have a drink. At a single stroke the concept of giving 'more for more' was born. The equally badly behaved, but wealthier race-goers' excesses were reined in by building a separate French-designed grandstand, and forming a club to which ladies would be admitted as guests — a radical innovation at that time. Brett and Williams wanted to attract society gentlemen to their club by allowing them to bring their wives and daughters with them. One hundred and twenty years later there are still gentlemen's clubs in London that refuse women entry at all.

Brett and Williams must have been remarkable personalities because they very quickly succeeded in establishing Sandown as 'the ladies racecourse par excellence'. By 1879 the club had 1800 members — the same figure as the number of residents in Esher, ten years previously. They never lost their zeal for improving their club, and when Kensington House in Kensington Gore was to be demolished, they acquired the ornamental gates which can still be seen from the Portsmouth Road.

The club concept alone was not enough to make Sandown Park the success that it had become. Williams was a remarkable innovator in the variety of races that were run — he had Sandown laid out for both NH and flat racing. The Grand National Hunt meeting was moved from its previous venue in Rugby, which was far from universally approved by the hunting fraternity at first.

Royal patronage was obviously a great bonus to Sandown, and there was widespread delight when Hohenlinden, a horse owned by the Prince of Wales won the Grand Military Gold Cup of 1887. Unfortunately the horse was disqualified following a successful objection on the grounds that as the Prince was not an officer on active service, his horse was ineligible to run.

As Sandown Park grew in social importance, so Brett and Williams became more involved in the local community. Brett was a churchwarden, whose brother became Lord Esher. Williams remained in charge of the racecourse for fifty years, until his death in 1926. Between them they began the process of integration with the people of Esher.

In 1897 1500 people took part in the procession to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Led by the rector, the Duchess of Albany and the young Duke and Princess Alice, a long procession snaked its way through the village, to be honoured with a Royal Salute in the Sandown Paddock. The Esher band, cricket team and volunteers from the fire brigade all took part. Tea was served for all 1500 people on the lawns. Medals were given to all the children; obstacle races, tugs of war and general sports competitions were held — the winners were presented with a Jubilee threepenny piece. The whole party ended with a torch-light procession to a bonfire on the green.

For some reason, Williams was not keen to encourage further sports days, but the community continued to have access to the course facilities, with flower shows being an annual event.

On 6 November 1909, Sandown Park was the stage for Paulhan, one of the early aviators, when he attempted to beat the altitude record. The event was well publicised in advance, and drew a huge crowd. Paulhan broke the official record of 601 feet, but failed to reach the unofficial one of 720 feet — not surprising, considering he was flying a machine that weighed half a ton, at a mere 30 miles an hour! A few years later Paulhan was to be the first man to fly from London to Manchester.

The mood of the country changed with the outbreak of the Great War, and much of the park area in the centre of the racecourse was ploughed up and sown with crops. The army came too, with both the Royal Engineers and the recently formed Welsh Guards being based there. The latter were to cement their links by returning with their training battalion for the whole of World War II. In fact, Sandown Park recently honoured the fact that the regiment went to the Normandy Beaches from Sandown Park, by naming a race the D-Day Reunion Handicap. One veteran located where he had been billeted during the war for over two years — in the Weighing Room!

Among the Regiment's officers were two well-known racing men, Peter Cazelet and Lord Mildmay, and a race is held in their memory every year. Peter Cazelet is also remembered as the man who brought a young French chef over to England to cook for him at home. The chef's name was Albert Roux.

Post War

Attitudes changed with the end of the war, and in order to survive Sandown Park had to change too. The crops that had been produced to help the war effort were now produced for financial gain. The Post Office rented an old Nissen hut to sort the Christmas mail.

Sandown reasserted its self-appointed role as the leader of the racecourse pack with two innovations which were to transform the industry. In 1939 the Stewards had eliminated the approaches from the 'upstarts' of BBC Television, as unsuitable and not worth the 15/- facility fee on offer. On 24 January 1948, two steeplechases and a hurdle race were broadcast by the BBC — the first time that horse racing was televised live anywhere in the world. Just nine years later in 1957, Sandown Park staged the first ever sponsored race — the Whitbread Gold Cup, which continues to be one of the highlights of the racing year.

During the sixties when motorways, by-passes and urban expansion were considered to be the signs of social progress, Esher and Sandown Park could not avoid the trend with a long-running dispute as to the best route for the by-pass, together with an attempt to turn the racecourse into a housing estate for 5000 people having to be fought. At the same time, the grandstands which were nearly one hundred years old were in need of replacement as maintenance costs were soaring.

A three-day public enquiry was held at Sandown Park in March 1963 at which the local community and racing world combined to save the racecourse from the fate of development. The well-known breeder John Hislop told the enquiry that "Sandown Park was as much a part of English life as the Oval or Wembley Stadium".

The development plans were rejected, both locally and on appeal to the Minister of Housing. The Inspector reported that he did not believe that the proposals made planning sense, and that he felt Sandown Park was better used as a racecourse than as an area to ease the housing burden in the south east. Brett and Williams must have smiled in their graves — they had won the same battle ninety years previously. However, Sandown Park's viability remained precarious as the threat of the by-pass still hung overhead.

In 1965 plans to merge Sandown Park and Epsom racecourses were proposed. Initially the Sandown shareholders rejected such an idea, but eventually in 1966 the merger took place and United Racecourses was formed.

A £300,000 grant was given for a new grandstand, but this was suspended indefinitely when the Mole Route for the still unbuilt by-pass was proposed. However, this battle was won, and in 1969 the racecourse was effectively nationalised when the Levy Board acquired United Racecourses in order to preserve racing at both Sandown Park and Epsom, so ending the topsy-turvy future of the racecourse in the sixties.

Twenty one years later on 22 September 1973, the grandstand was opened. At a stroke, Sandown Park regained its reputation for innovation by having constructed a grandstand that was both a leader in comfort and had facilities for all racegoers, whichever enclosure they chose, and designed in such a way that it would be used for exhibitions, conferences and banqueting on non-race days. As had happened in the 1870s, not everyone approved at first, but as the racing public came to know the grandstand, so the awards tumbled in. Sandown Park has won the Racecourse of the Year title more times than all the other courses put together. Non-racing activities continue to develop — so much so that Sandown is now the 5th biggest exhibition centre in the country.

Reprinted from Esher District Local History Society Monograph 23, with acknowledgment and thanks to Mr Stephen Wallis.

MISCELLANY

Alan Jackson, the well-known Dorking author and lecturer on Railway topics, is working on a book, 'The Railway in Surrey' and is finding great difficulty in obtaining old photographs with which to illustrate the text in the chapter on Industrial Railways.

He is particularly interested in industrial sidings of the extractive industries, lime and stone quarries, the Surrey Iron Railway, Worplesdon Artificial Stone Works, and temporary lines laid during road construction. If you have any suitable photographs, drawings or maps which you are prepared to lend him, or know where he can find any, please contact him at St Michael's Steps, Deepdene Park Road, Dorking Tel: 0306 883324.

In Search of Francis Grose

John Farrant

Francis Grose (1731-91) initiated the eighteenth-century's most extensive series of published illustrations of ancient monuments: a thousand plates with accompanying descriptions, based on his and others' views and researches, appeared in *The Antiquities of England and Wales* (1772-6. *Supplement*, 1777-87), of *Scotland* (1789-91) and of *Ireland* (1791-4). His role of popularizer was combined with original contributions to the study of military antiquities, of folklore and of slang — and with some delightful satires.

His strong Surrey connections started with his father having a home in Richmond by 1750 and sitting on the county Bench. He became Adjutant of the Surrey Militia in 1759 and, promoted to captain in 1765, continued in office until his death. By 1763 and probably for the next 20 years he was living on Wandsworth Hill, near the French Horn. The *Antiquities* contains only 18 views of Surrey monuments, all except possibly two from his own drawings. But he must have drawn many more Surrey views, if Sussex is any guide: in addition to 21 views engraved for the *Antiquities*, I have found a similar number of watercolour views and yet more sketches of capitals, fonts, tombs, etc in churches.

For Surrey I know only of four, at the Yale Center for British Art, and have mentions of a couple more — including in Percival's extra-illustrated copy of Manning and Bray in

the British Library, but where in its 30 volumes? I will be pleased to hear from readers of any pictures (and any other items) by Grose. Unfortunately he rarely signed his drawings, so a good few in my experience are un- or misattributed. He was definitely in the second division of topographical draughtsmen; one possible distinguishing feature is that people and animals are usually drawn too small!

For more on him, see my 'The making of Francis Grose's *Antiquities evidence from Sussex*'. *Sussex Archaeol Collect*, 131 (1993), 152-8, and 'The travels and travails of Francis Grose, FSA', *Antiquaries J*, 75 (1995, forthcoming). John Farrant, 75 Paddock Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1TW; 01273-478133.

PUBLICATIONS

The History and development of Purley, by Revd Robert Root Resker. In 1885 Revd Robert Root Resker was offered the 'quiet country living' of Christ Church, Purley, a new parish carved out of four neighbouring parishes a year earlier, and a poor one. During the next 30 years Robert Resker saw Purley grow from a small village into a suburban town, much of which we would recognise today. He recorded many of his observations in the Parish magazine, and in his last year as vicar he published his *History and Development of Purley* in monthly parts in that magazine. His work was subsequently published in book form, limited to 500 copies, in 1916.

The Bourne Society has republished Resker's book, supplemented with old photographs from the Roger Packham collection, again as a **limited edition of 500 copies**. This valuable history is available **now** at £3.75 from Mr J Tyeman, 60 Onslow Gardens, South Croydon, CR2 9AT Please aff 45p postage. Cheques etc to be payable to "The Bourne Society". Also available from East Surrey Museum, 1 Stafford Road, Caterham.

CONFERENCES

15th West London Local History Conference Made in West London Saturday 25th March

Since the 1600s local businesses have produced malt, beer, gin, boats, bricks, pottery and porcelain, tapestries, candles, soaps, flour, bread, carts and carriages, gunpowder, parchment, leather, baskets and barrels, dyestuffs and clothing. New processes have taken industry to new locations in the 20th century — producing everything from cup cakes to toiletries, tyres to potato crisps, swimsuits to aeroplanes! This year's conference looks at the wealth of products which have been made in West London through a series of lively illustrated talks.

Programme

- 9.30 am Doors open
- 10.00 am **Dr David Reeder** opens the conference
- 10.05 am **The Growth of London's Industries**
Catherine Ross, Museum of London
- 11.00 am COFFEE

- 11.30 am **Made on the Great West Road**
James Marshall, West Middlesex Family History Society
- 12.10 pm **Heavy Industry in Wandsworth**
Patrick Loobey, Wandsworth Historical Society
- 12.50 am LUNCH
- 2.15 pm **The Story of Pears' Transparent Soap**
Andrea Cameron, Hounslow and District Local History Society
- 2.50 pm **Pride of Lyons**
Peter Bird, formerly of J Lyons & Co
- 3.30 pm TEA
- 4.00 pm **Brewing in Chiswick from the mid 17th century**
Doris Yarde, Archivist to Fuller, Smith and Turner
- 4.45 am **Dr Reeder's** closing remarks
- 5.00 pm Conference closes

The conference will be held in the pleasant surroundings of Montague Hall, Hounslow, easily accessible by bus, tube and British Rail (the ticket gives you a location map). The price includes morning coffee and afternoon tea; light lunches will be on sale in the hall and there are cafes in the shopping centre nearby.

TICKETS: £5 (£6 at the door) from RJ Ensing, 103 Engadine Street, London SW18 5DU. Cheques payable to 'West London History Conference'.

25th March. Surrey Local History Council. "Surrey Elections". Further details from Mrs Glenys Crocker, Guildford Institute or 'phone 01483-65821.

8th April. Council for Kentish Archaeology. Aspects of Maritime Archaeology in Faversham and Kent. (*See Bulletin 290 for details*).

29th April. CBA South East Spring Meeting. An illustrated lecture by Paul Bennett, Director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the Dominican Priory, St Peter's Lane, Canterbury, Kent. 2.00 – 5.00 pm. Non-members welcome.

DAYSCHOOLS

The following are organised by the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex in conjunction with the Sussex Archaeological Society. Further details may be obtained from CCE, University of Sussex, Brighton. Telephone 01373-678527. There are reduced fees for OAPs and unemployed.

8th April. "Historic Sussex Churches". Tutor Graham Mayhew at Fishbourne Roman Palace. Fee £15.

29th April. "The Archaeology of Ships and Seafaring". Tutor Peter Marsden at Marlipins Museum, Shoreham. The 3000 year old boat found at Dover in 1993 is part of the evidence for the history of ships and seafaring so essential to Britain since earliest time, which provide vivid information on past trade, warfare, technology and life. Fee £15.

31st March – 7th April. "Study Tour of Rome" organised by CCE, University of Sussex. Tutors David Rudling and Oliver Gilkes. Price £600 per person sharing double room. Details from Rosemary Gilken, CCE, University of Sussex.

MEETINGS

16th March

"Mitcham Parish Church and its People 1750-1900". A lecture by Eric Montague, Archaeologist and author of publications of local history, to the Merton Historical Society at St Peter & St Paul, the Parish Church of Mitcham at 7.30 pm. A collection will be taken in aid of the Church's Restoration Fund.

16th March

"Godalming Parish Church". A lecture by Mr A J Bott to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

17th March

"A Day in the life of Polesden Lacey". A lecture by Bruce Edwards to the Leatherhead & District LHS in the Dixon Hall, Leatherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Entry 50p members, £1.00 non-members.

17th March

"The Guildford Amphitheatre Site". A lecture by Nick Bateman (Museum of London Archaeology Service) to the Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8.00 pm. Admission: members free; non-members £2.

23rd March

"Farnham and I" — Part 2. A lecture by Ron Moffatt to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

24th March

"Stoneman's — Funeral Directors and Stonemasons". A lecture by Mr John Stoneman and his son Brian to the Holmesdale Natural History Club at The Museum, 14 London Road, Reigate at 8.15 pm.

24th March

"New views on London's Prehistory". A lecture by Jon Cotton (Museum of London) to the Wandsworth Historical Society in the Friends Meeting House, High Street, Wandsworth at 8.00 pm.

29th March

"New developments in Kingston Museum". A lecture by Anne McCormack to the Friends of Kingston Museum & Heritage Service in the Baptist Hall, Union Street, Kingston at 8.00 pm. Voluntary donation £1.50.

29th March

Visit to Hillcroft College, Southbank, Surbiton by the Esher District LHS including tour and short talk by Doreen Ehrlich. Meet at the College at 2.45 pm.

1st April

SAS visit to St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough. See *Bulletin 290 for details*.

1st April

"The History of Cobham". A lecture by Mr David Taylor to the Walton & Weybridge LHS in the Elmgrove Meeting Room, Walton at 3.00 pm.

4th April

"Roman Body Armour". A lecture by Tim Everson to KuTAS at the Lower Hall, Friends Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston at 8.00 pm.

5th April

"Old Sarum: 5000 years of history". A lecture by Derek Renn to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8.00 pm.

7th April

"An Archaeological pot-pourri". A lecture by David Williams to the Holmesdale Natural History Club in the Museum, 14 London Road, Reigate at 8.15 pm.

7th April

"The Huguenots of Wandsworth". An illustrated talk by Antony Shaw to the Merton Historical Society at the Snuff Mill Environment Centre at 8.00 pm.

15th/17th April

Easter Extravaganza. At Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex. Details 0181-568-4757.

20th April

"Mortlake Tapestry Weavers". A lecture by Mrs Maisie Brown to the Barnes & Mortlake History Society in the Main Hall at the Sheen Lane Centre at 8.00 pm.

21st April

"An Archaeological landscape of Bushy Park". A lecture by Dr Tom Greeves to the Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8.00 pm. Admission: members free; non-members £2.

21st April

AGM of the Leatherhead & District LHS, followed by a lecture by Gordon Knowles "Early flying and fliers from Farnborough and Brooklands" to be held in the Dixon Hall, Leatherhead Institute at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. Entry fee 50p members, £1.50 non-members.

28th April

"The building of the Great Westminster Clock — the rise and fall, and rise again of Big Ben". A lecture by Viscount Midleton (Vice-President) to the Wandsworth Historical Association in the Friends Meeting House, High Street, Wandsworth at 8.00 pm.