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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Bulletin

Number 307

December 1996/January 1997

COUNCIL NEWS

At the October meeting of Council, the Honorary Secretaries reported that a grant of £600 had been received from Surrey County Council towards the restoration work on the Bronze Age barrows at Frensham Common. The grant will be used to pay for a survey of the monuments by the Royal Commission.

A meeting has been held with Guildford Borough Council's architect and Museum curator to discuss the possibility of moving the Society's office and Library to the premises to be vacated by the Muniment Room when that body moves to Woking. No firm decision has yet been made.

An application by the 'Mary Parker Memorial Fund' in Hambledon for a loan of up to £1,000 was approved, subject to conditions, for the conservation of a Village scrap book comprising material dating from the 19th century.

Millennium Project It was reported that a meeting held on the 24th July had been well attended and Mr Dennis Turner had visited two of the teams working on their villages. Ms L Walder had taken on the role of project co-ordinator.

Guildford Palace Excavations. A research design for the production of a report had been received from Mr Poulton, and possible sources of funding would be investigated.

Publications. Proposals for a 'popular archaeology' book to be funded jointly by the Society and Surrey County Council were discussed. The proposal was approved in principle and a working party was set up to oversee the project with representatives of SCC.

Dates of Council Meetings during 1997

Friday 31st January	8 p.m. at Salters, Guildford
Friday 2nd May	8 p.m. at Leatherhead Institute
Friday 27th June	8 p.m. at Salters, Guildford
Monday 6th October	6 p.m. at the Society of Antiquaries, London

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Annual Symposium will be held on Saturday, 22nd February 1997 at the Dorking Christian Centre. Displays and exhibitions of work undertaken by individuals or societies for the Margary Award are welcome. Details and entry forms from Julie Wileman, 48 Bond Road, Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7SH.

LECTURES & SYMPOSIA COMMITTEE

Lecture Series: Buildings in the Surrey Landscape

Six Tuesday evenings in April and May 1997

This series of lectures will be held at the Shalford Village Hall, on consecutive Tuesdays starting on 8th April 1997.

Lecture Series Programme:

- | | |
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| 1 Windmills and Watermills
8 April 1997 | Kenneth Gravett |
| KWEG is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his first lecture to the Society, on the same subject. | |
| 2 Smaller Houses and Dwellings
15 April 1997 | George Howard |
| 3 Greater Houses
22 April | Nigel Barker |
| 4 Churches in the Landscape
29 April 1997 | Richard Morris |
| 5 Farms and their Buildings
6 May 1997 | Annabelle Hughes |
| 6 Village Industries
13 May 1997 | Peter Tarplee |

A booking form will be distributed with the next edition of the Bulletin at the end of January 1997.

NOTES

Betchworth: Excavations at Franks' Sandpit

David Williams

Rescue excavations at this site, prior to sand extraction, are now complete. The Surrey Archaeological Society's involvement came about as the result of the planning inspector's neglecting to apply, at appeal, a planning condition which would have enabled archaeological work prior to extraction. Once this situation had belatedly become apparent, the writer visited the site twice, the second time in September 1995 and, following the discovery of Roman and prehistoric remains alerted the County Archaeologist. Two areas of archaeological interest were identified and funding was secured from the Society for excavation work which took place over five weeks in November and December of 1995. A second season, funded by Surrey County Council, took place over three weeks in April and May of 1996. This report expands on that given in Bulletin 300 but it is still very much an interim statement. It draws heavily on interim reports on the flint and pottery by David Field and Jon Cotton.

The site lies on rising ground at the foot of the Downs, the transition from Gault clay taking place just north of Site 1. In the 20s and 30s the initial sandpit (the "Barley Mow" or the "Box Hill" sandpit) of which the present pit is the final eastwards extension, yielded a certain amount of material, mainly Neolithic (including a number of polished flint axes), Middle Bronze Age and Roman, all from destroyed contexts. Recently my attention has been drawn to a mid-19th century newspaper report of an inquest into the discovery of a, presumably ancient, skeleton (aged about 30 and about 6 feet tall, with no associated finds) which lay some 2-300m to the east of the

present site. This was found during the construction of a drive to a new house in what formerly had been a ploughed field.

Site 1

Late Mesolithic to Bronze Age

This site essentially comprises three phases of activity characterised by dug pits, the earliest phase of which was sealed by a spread of sand.

Phase 1 *Late Mesolithic and Neolithic*

To this phase can be assigned a group of twenty pits or other discrete features, all of which were aceramic. Some contained only black sand while others contained much tightly-packed burnt flint and burnt ironstone pieces within a black sand. The extremely mobile nature of the underlying white sand subsoil, together with the leaching of colour, made it quite impossible to detect the original cuts of these features, many of which may have been quite shallow. Another 'feature' comprised only a 2m wide scatter of hundreds of small chips of burnt flint which penetrated some 30cm into the underlying sand.

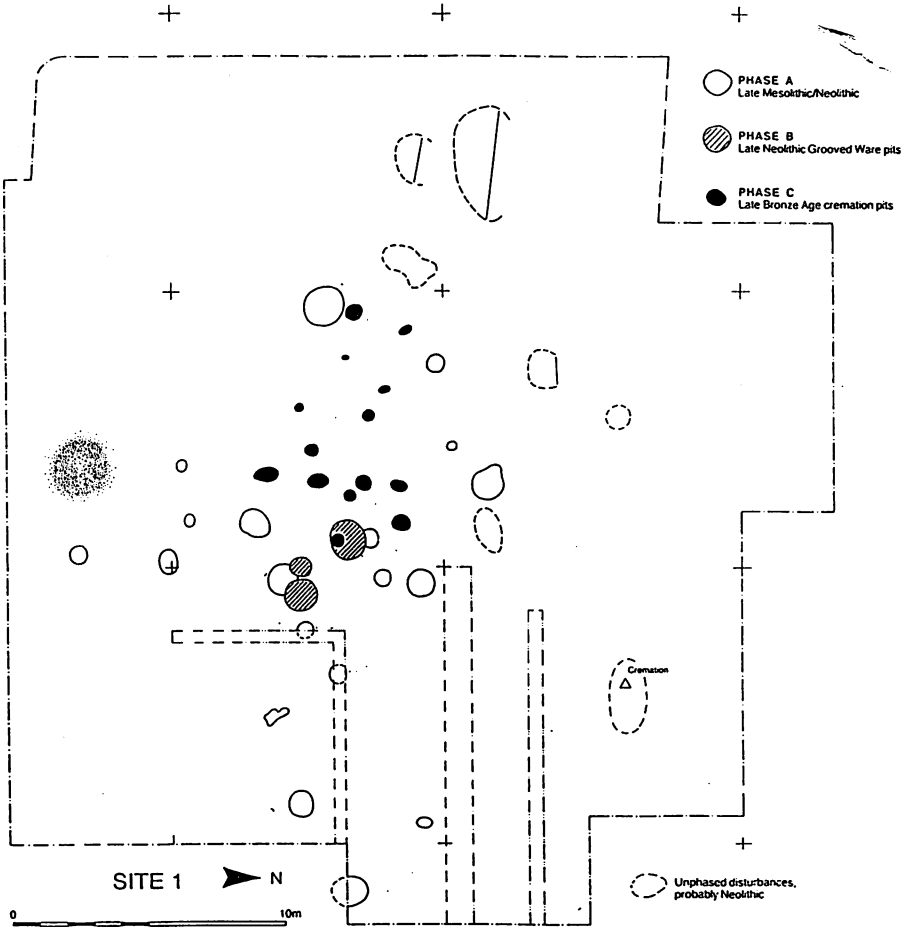
Overlying these features was a wide spread of pinky-brown sand up to 30cm deep containing large amounts of flint debris. Two main periods of activity are represented; the first late Mesolithic (the Mesolithic material includes blades, a few microliths and three tranchet axes) and the second a crude flake industry of later Neolithic through to middle Bronze Age date. Other Neolithic lithic material comprised a few leaf-shaped arrowheads and a number of knives. The sand also contained a scatter of pottery sherds including a few sherds of early Neolithic date and sherds of later Neolithic impressed wares of Peterborough type.

Phase 2 *Late Neolithic*

Cutting into the sand containing the flint debris and in the same area as the majority of the Phase 1 pits was a group of three pits of particular importance as they contained large amounts of grog-tempered Grooved Ware. As with the earlier pits it proved very difficult in the soft sand to trace and excavate these pits in the usual way. Some 564 sherds, which represent twenty or so vessels, were recovered. These sherds were almost entirely confined to the pits and proved to be almost completely absent from large areas opened adjacently. Grooved Ware is the earliest flat-bottomed pottery in Britain and is often associated with ritual activity and prestigious sites such as henges. This is the first group from Surrey away from the Thames and the largest group yet known from the south-east. Some of the Betchworth pottery closely resembles material from the huge henge known as Durrington Walls in Wiltshire in the use of vertical cordons and twisted cord decoration. Other sherds have finger tip or pinched decoration while one vessel is roughly grooved with a blunt stick. Some vessels are undecorated. The impression gained is of a group of vessels made, broken and deposited in pits in quick succession. A large number of sherds retain carbonised deposits and these residues are presently being examined. One pit also contained over thirty, apparently unused, flint scrapers and various stones and another contained a petit tranchet derivative arrowhead.

In addition to the Grooved Ware pits there were a number of unphased amorphous disturbances containing pinky-brown sand. Some of these contained a few flint flakes as well as burnt flint. One contained a few sherds of Neolithic Peterborough pottery while another had at its base a small group of cremated human bone fragments.

Franks' Sandpit Betchworth



Phase 3 *Late Bronze Age*

A further group of up to thirteen pits occupied the same small area. One of these had cut into one of the Grooved Ware pits but this relationship was not recognised at the time of excavation. These latest pits contained entirely black burnt debris including much cremated bone (presumably human) and lumps of fired clay. The pit which cut the Grooved Ware pit also contained a spiral bronze finger ring. This find, together with a substantial part of the rim of a pot found in one pit, suggests a date in the late Bronze Age for this episode.

Discussion

What are we to make of this concentration of three phases of pits spanning perhaps a thousand years? The site had been used for unspecified activities during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. It may be coincidence that the same spot was used for a ritual involving the deposition of Grooved Ware and flint scrapers but coincidence seems unlikely for the close juxtaposition of the Grooved Ware pits and the Bronze Age cremation pits. Can we assume therefore that the precise spot (which has no particular topographical prominence) was revered and perhaps marked in some way? One purpose of the second season of work was to ascertain the bounds of the pit concentration and to see whether the limits of the Grooved Ware pits were defined, perhaps with an encircling ditch. No such defining feature was found. The Grooved Ware pits clearly represent ritual activity while the Bronze Age pits are likely to represent the deliberately buried debris of a cremation. These latter pits indeed form an important new addition to the limited evidence for the disposal of human remains in the late Bronze Age. The contents of the Bronze Age pits have been sampled in their entirety and their study will form a substantial part of the post excavation phase. The unphased amorphous features may be tree disturbances.

From a Roman context on Site 2 was recovered a cylindrical fragment of a greenstone pestle of Late Neolithic date. These objects are thought to have ritual connections and this object may well have been found on the field and kept as a curiosity two thousand years later.

Site 2

This site lay on the highest ground within the extraction area, though slightly higher ground rises just to the east. Part of this site coincided with a thin orange-brown clay-like capping to harder sands and, during the dry Spring of 1996, proved a hindrance to the progress of the work. There were two main phases.

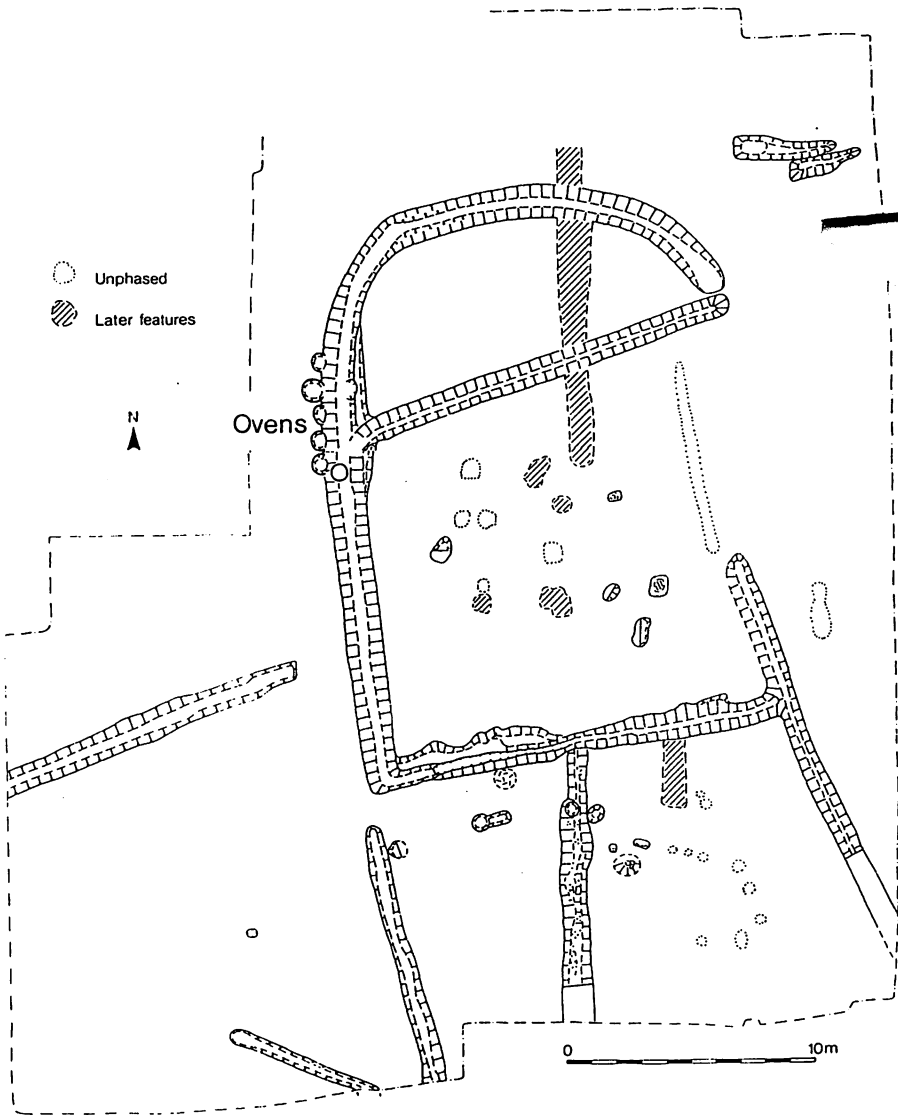
Phase 1 *Late Bronze Age*

The earliest feature on Site 2 comprised a 19m north-south stretch of a slightly sunken linear hollow, 4m wide by up to 40cm deep. This continued beyond the site to the south and ended within the excavation in a rounded terminal. The base of this hollow had been metalled with flint and small spherical pebbles derived from the surrounding clay capping. Running along the western side of this feature was a line of twenty-five holes for stout posts or stakes c40cm apart. The hollow had been infilled with a brown soil containing Late Bronze Age pottery and many large pot boilers and some crude flintwork. Within the flint metalling was found a doughnut-shaped 'weight' of Upper Greensand and a small bronze awl.

It is difficult to interpret this feature except in terms of a deliberately constructed length of metalled track with a fence on one side. Indeed, when the flint layer was removed slight parallel linear features were observed in the lowest part of the hollow. The more substantial of these is interpreted as a cart rut. Its neighbour was more diffuse but

Franks' Sandpit Betchworth

Site 2 Plan
Late Iron Age/Early Roman features



together they suggest a vehicle with a gauge of c1.5m (c4'11"). If a track, the purpose of this feature is more difficult to fathom. The accompanying post line seems more substantial and more closely-spaced than would be needed for a simple stock fence. The 'track' could be a simple driveway coming from a settlement to the south or it could be ceremonial or it could be considered in terms of a boundary. Whatever its purpose it had gone out of use during the Late Bronze Age and may have been deliberately infilled.

Phase 2 Late Iron Age/Early Roman

To this period belongs a ditched enclosure or enclosures of the mid-first century AD. The main enclosure measured c15x32m internally (not as erroneously given in Bulletin 300) and formed an elongated D with the round end facing north. A straight length of ditch cut off the rounded end of the enclosure and joined with the western stretch of ditch. The east side of the enclosure was open but a further stretch of ditch joined the eastern end of the southern side of a T-junction and continued beyond the site boundary. A further separate stretch of ditch continued the line of the western arm southwards giving a second, southern, enclosure of uncertain size. A further ditch led off westward from the south west corner of the main enclosure while another entered the site diagonally from the south (both cutting the LBA 'track').

There was much plough damage. The main enclosure contained a few pits and postholes but insufficient to form a coherent plan of a building; however there would have been room for no more than one round house. One of the pits contained a burnt deposit in which were two jaws and a rim of a jar and may have had a ritual purpose. The southerly enclosure was crossed by a shallow feature which may have been a worn track leading to the main enclosure but there are suspicions that this might be of more recent origin. Apart from a single pit, a hearth of uncertain date and a U-shaped arrangement of undated postholes the southerly enclosure was bare of features.

Along the outer edge of the western arm of the ditch of the main enclosure was a series of five ovens. Four of these comprised heat-reddened U-shaped bowls with a rough lining of fist-sized lumps of Upper Greensand. The fifth was larger, comprising an oval pit, edged roughly with stone, and containing a substantial deposit of black burnt matter which seems largely to have been brushwood. A sixth, circular, oven lay high up within the ditch fill. Each was associated with deposits of charcoal which appear to contain no carbonised grain. The two northerly ovens had large deposits of charcoal raked out in front of and below them in the base of the ditch and these ovens may be contemporary with the enclosure ditches. The ditches themselves, particularly those forming the western side of the main and southern enclosures, contained large amounts of pottery (including only one decorated Samian sherd) together with spreads of charcoal and scatters of cremated bone in which lamb has been identified. There may be a ritual explanation behind some of these deposits. These ditches also contained a fragment of a baked clay triangular loomweight, part of a glass annular bead, half the lower stone of a sandstone rotary quern and various stones clearly selected for their unusual shape. Metal finds on the site were few, despite intensive metal detector work. One coin and two brooches of first-century date were recovered from unstratified contexts while a Nauheim-derivative coiled wire brooch of Late Iron Age type was recovered from the fill of a ditch.

The site clearly represents a small farmstead, perhaps a single family unit. Provisional study of the pottery, whose sources include Alice Holt, East Sussex, North Kent and Brockley Hill, suggests an occupation spanning the very Late Iron Age through to the early second century.

Phase 3 Medieval and later

A very shallow ditch of medieval date crossed the northern part of the main Roman enclosure. This contained the partly articulated remnants of the carcass of a cow and may be a field boundary. There was a wide scatter of medieval pottery across the field. A series of cart ruts crossed the southern part of Site 2, running north-south. These seem to be of post-medieval date as are a number of small pits within the main Roman enclosure. In the mid-19th century the site lay within two fields known as Barn Field and The Butts.

Acknowledgments

The work would have been impossible without the kind permission of Mr Phil Crate who generously provided access and helped in many other ways. I am grateful also to the site supervisors for their hard work; Richard Bevan during the first season and Andy Primrose for the second.

A Correction

An article on 'Cider Making in Surrey' which appeared in Bulletin 306 was attributed in error to Judie English. It was in fact by an anonymous author and originally appeared in Historic Landscapes Newsletter.

Cocks Farm, Abinger Hammer: 1996 Excavations — A Brief Statement

Steve Dyer

The second season of excavations at Cocks Farm, Abinger Hammer was carried out by Surrey Archaeological Society during July and August 1996. Work had previously been conducted in 1877 and 1995 when parts of a building of Romano-British date were revealed. The earliest of these excavations were not carried out to modern standards and only one plan of the remains uncovered was published at that time; a section, by Charles Darwin, appeared at a later date. Neither of these showed an accurate relationship to any other contemporary features, which has meant that a full understanding of the implications of the archaeological deposits has not been possible. Excavations in 1995 in a location thought most likely at that time to represent the area of the earlier work confirmed the presence of a Romano-British building, but no earlier disturbance to, or excavation of, the archaeological stratigraphy was evident as a result of this examination. As a result of the good preservation of the deposits revealed during this excavation English Heritage have shown an interest in designating the site a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

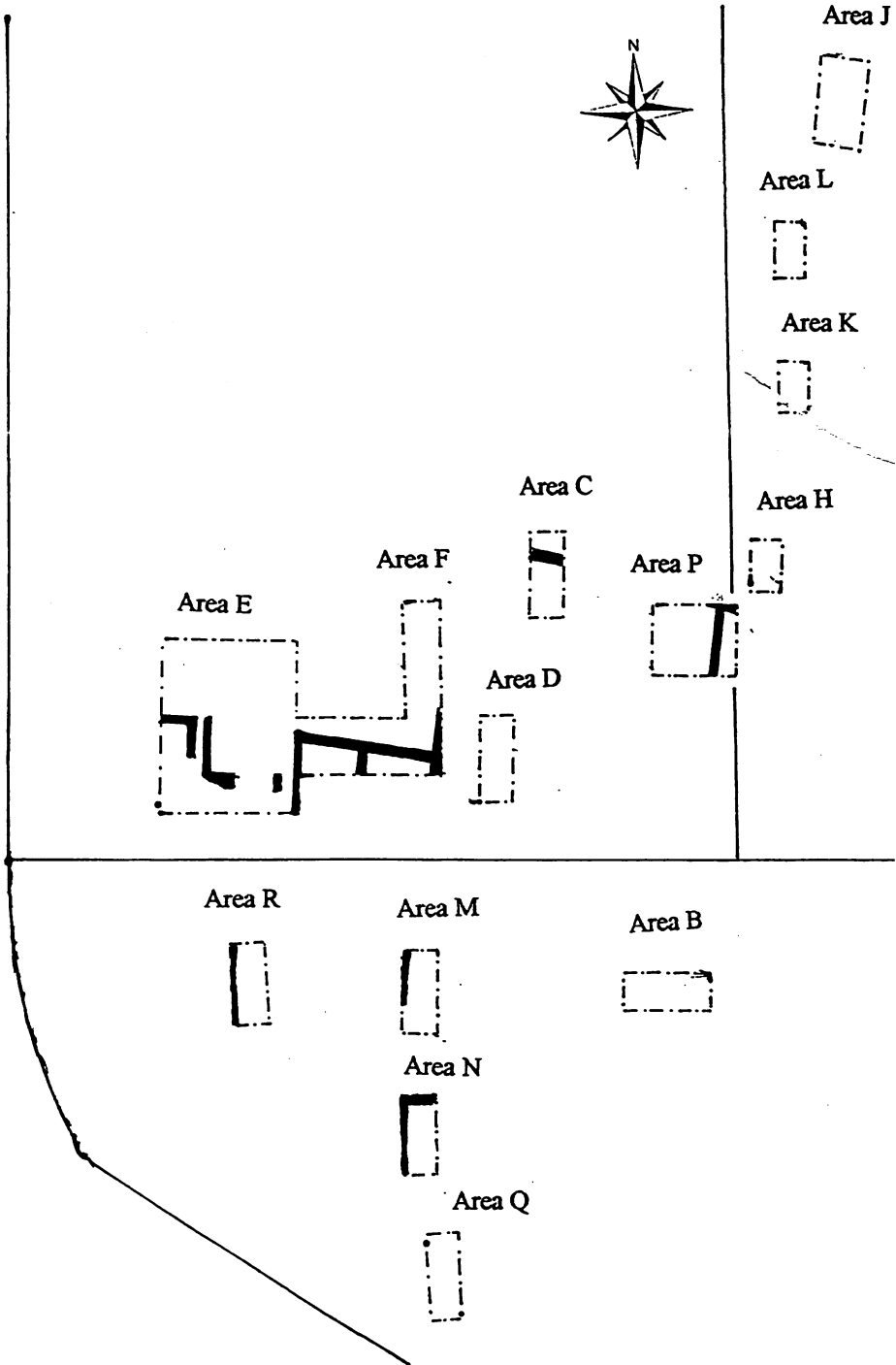
Following the completion of the 1995 (Areas A – D) excavation season a more detailed study of papers relating to the estate on which the site lies and to the notes of Charles Darwin, suggested that the site of the earlier excavations lie in a former garden (an area now partially covered in light woodland) to the west of the 1995 excavations. In order to assist English Heritage in their scheduling procedure a programme of work was agreed with them and the Principal Archaeologist of Surrey County Council for excavations to be conducted in 1996, principally to ascertain the scope of the building complex, and if possible through the re-excavation of earlier sections to gain an understanding of the stratigraphic history of the site. In addition to this primary aim of the project a number of other questions, arising from studies carried out during the winter of 1995/6, formed part of the research strategy for the season. The specific areas of investigation were ranked in order of priority within the Research Design and are discussed within this statement following that order.

The area thought to contain the area of the 1877 excavation was evaluated by the excavation of two trenches, each 6 x 1.5m; both of these (Areas E – F) showed disturbed deposits of recent date overlying remains likely to form part of the Romano-British building complex. An area excavation was, therefore, undertaken within this location in order to both gain a better understanding of the archaeological stratigraphy and investigate any evidence for the presence of the earlier excavation. The deposits revealed throughout this trench were seen to all be of post-medieval or modern date, resulting from gardening activities and some deeper excavation. The disturbed foundations of walls, together with some portions of floors and surfaces were seen to underlie this recent disturbance: these provide enough information for a plan of the building to be drawn for this location, although it is not possible to suggest any specific date within the Romano-British period due to the disturbed nature of the deposits and the fact that it had been agreed that where intact deposits of archaeological interest were encountered these would not be excavated. One area within this trench showed a deeper excavation, but as the wall plan within this area did not relate to that shown for the 19th century excavations it is not thought that this forms part of that episode of investigation; the stratigraphy that this section cut through was heavily disturbed with the trench being cut through the underlying colluvial deposits and the walls present within this having been heavily robbed. It is possible, therefore, that this represents an area where the masonry walls have been quarried for building purposes in recent times, as is indicated by the family papers of that time.

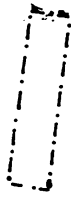
A geophysical survey conducted in late 1995 indicated a possible ancillary building to the north of that part of the Romano-British building complex excavated in 1995. A trench (Area G) was excavated within this location in order to clarify the possible nature and date of this anomaly. The results were negative from an archaeological viewpoint, the anomaly probably being caused by the presence of a large quantity of ironstone within this area. The excavation of the trench was useful, however, for an understanding of the colluvial deposits within this part of the site, which differ considerably from those at the western edge of the arable field which form part of a separate area of investigation.

The colluvial deposits mentioned above, and revealed to lie to the north of the spine wall of that part of the building complex found during the 1995 excavation season were investigated at the western edge of the current arable field (Areas H, J – L). These were seen to have been disturbed by agricultural activities, although studies by a soil scientist indicate that they are likely to have important information regarding the formation, but the results of this are awaited. A linear anomaly revealed during the geophysical surveys was not encountered by these trenches and the nature of this feature cannot at this stage be confirmed.

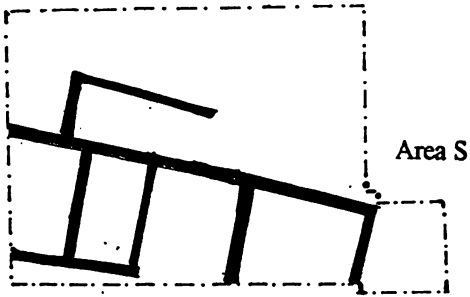
To the south of the main area seen to contain the principal remains of the Romano-British building complex, a trench excavated in 1995 (Area B) failed to produce any evidence of occupation of that date; there was, however, a significant deposit of garden soils the nature of which could not be properly understood within the limited area investigated. Four trenches (Areas M – N, Q – R), each 5 x 2m were excavated within this part of the site to gain an understanding of the deposits here. Each of these trenches produced considerable quantities of Romano-British artefacts mixed with post-medieval material. At the base of each of these trenches, cut through part of the colluvial sequence, the foundations of walls were revealed, appearing to be of the same building technique as those seen on the main villa complex. The study of the deposits overlying these foundations has shown that this area has been subjected to large-scale gardening activities during the later post-medieval period, and rather than being levelled down, as was previously believed, the ground surface within this orchard has been raised by the addition of soils from elsewhere.



Area G



Area A



Area S



**COCKS FARM, ABINGER: EXCAVATION AREAS 1995 & 1996
SHOWING WALLS LOCATED**

At the eastern end of the major area of excavation in 1995 the spine wall appeared to continue beyond the trench, and possibly to change its alignment. A trench excavated in 1996 (Area S) to clarify the nature of this showed the continuation not to exist, but to have been apparent through the presence of fallen greensand blocks and mortar from the wall. The position of the eastern end of the villa complex can probably, therefore, be confirmed.

The root-plate of a tree, blown over during the 1990 storms (Area P), revealed a possible wall, but when the tree was trimmed the trunk fell partly back into the position from which it came. Subsequent weathering of the exposed section showed a large amount of plaster and mortar, together with roofing and box-flue tile. This tree stump was removed, after it had been excavated *in situ* to assess the damage caused by the tree being uprooted. A trench was then excavated through the damaged stratigraphy to confirm the nature of the deposits disturbed; this damage was seen to be considerable, affecting an area 4.5 x 2.5m and up to 2m in depth, with part of an internal wall and one floor having been subject to severe disturbance.

In addition to the Romano-British artefacts, pottery and other material of earlier and later periods have been recovered during the course of excavation and separate fieldwalking exercises.

The results of the excavations in 1996 will require a more complete study of the artefacts to be completed, but a plan of the building complex has been made and this together with these notes should be seen as a brief statement of the results of the work.

17th Century Tokens from Kingston

Tim Everson

Kingston Museum, with the aid of the V & A Purchase Grant Fund, the National Arts Collections Fund and local donations, have secured the purchase of sixteen Kingston tokens from Spinks. These will be on display together with examples already held in the Museum's new gallery which opens in the new year.

I am also writing a booklet on Kingston's 17th century tokens and would like to know of any readers who may hold examples in private collections or other museums. I have seen all the examples held at Guildford Museum, the British Museum and the Museum of London, but hope there might still be some odd ones lurking around. (Tim Everson, Kingston Museum and Heritage Service, North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2PS).

Manfield School, Ash

**John Boas, Mary Alexander and Kevin Fryer
Guildford Museum Excavation Unit**

At the beginning of October 1996 work began at Manfield School, Grange Road, Ash (NGR SU 897506) to demolish the school and build seventeen houses on the site. Although SCC had owned the site they did not inform their County Archaeologist that it had been sold for development. Although Manfield School has been known as the site of probable pottery kilns since 1965 the site slipped through the official channels and planning permission was granted without any archaeological clause. A vigilant local resident alerted the County Archaeologist who asked Guildford Museum's Excavation Unit to watch the site.

There is little that can be done on site until the school buildings have been demolished and cleared away but work started almost immediately on the foundations of the show house in the south west corner of the site. An area in front of the school was lowered by a few inches and an area behind the school has been lowered by about a metre. In front of the school, and in particular in the south west corner, hundreds of sherds have

been recovered from the surface of the ground or just below. However, nearby in the foundations of the show house no features have been seen. There is a layer of soil about 1m thick lying on yellow-brown clay. This soil appears to have been brought in to level up the site. The area behind (or north of) the school has produced very little pottery so far.

It is quite clear from the number and the nature of the finds that there is a pottery kiln nearby but it has not yet been located. It has been known for many years that Ash was a centre of pottery making as part of the Surrey-Hampshire Border industry, but no kiln site has yet been found.

Over 2,000 sherds of mainly early 17th century white Border Ware, including many wasters and kiln furniture, have so far been recovered from the site. Small quantities of both mediaeval white ware, mainly unglazed and dating to the 13th-16th century, and late 17th-18th century Red Border Ware, have also been identified. The Border Ware forms present are pipkins, dishes, bowls, cups, mugs, jars, colanders and chaffing dishes. The kiln furniture comprises a complete ring-prop and parts of others, a number of heavily-glazed spacers with pot scars and a brick kiln fragment with a white Border Ware sherd attached.

Pirbright Manor House

D J Turner

The moated Manor House, Pirbright, was recorded in 1995 by Mr Gordon Wilson and the Surrey DBRG by kind permission of Fiona Smith and David Lees. Parish histories, etc, attribute the house to Catherine of Aragon but historical research by the writer and reconsideration of the house by Peter Gray and Miss Sarah Pearson, lately of RCHM(E), indicates that the surviving late medieval structure (3.bay open hall and remarkable cross wing, with indications of a lost second cross wing) may be the remains of a royal hunting lodge built for Edward IV. An earlier building on the site may have been the one in which the Despencers held prisoner Elizabeth, wife of Sir Richard Talbot of Goodrich Castle and Comyn co-heir, in 1323-4.

The hunting lodge was probably built in or around 1482. Its main hall is 11m long by 7.5m wide with massive arch-braced roof trusses and double butt purlins in line. Since there is no sign of smoke blackening on the roof timbers of the open hall it may be that the hall was heated by a lateral fire place on the rear wall but no evidence of this was found. The surviving cross wing had a half floored secondary hall at its northern end and there is clear evidence for a central passage, presumably to a lost detached kitchen. The wing has a clasped purlin roof with queen struts over the secondary hall and passage, but the side purlins butt into an arch-braced truss over the middle of the southern chamber.

(cf. Edward Roberts 1995, Edward III's hunting lodge at Odiham, Hants. *Medieval Archaeology* 39, 91-106.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB

Christine Hardman

The Autumn sessions began in September with a day of dyeing, using natural dyes as demonstrated by Heather and Hilary. They showed the club members the effect of nettle, onion skins, snowberries, wold, madder and indigo dyes on a variety of materials, including wool, cotton and silk. The members were fascinated by the process, and were also able to try tie dye techniques for themselves. They had a range of samples to take home with them, and were surprised to see such a variety of colours.

We are looking forward to Steve Dyer's dig update in November, and to the Victorian craft session in December.

LITHIC TOOL RESEARCH GROUP

A Group meeting was held in Dorking on 18 October, when about 30 members came to hear Phil Harding, of the Wessex Trust for Archaeology, talk about flint tool-making, and to watch him knap a large flint nodule to produce a slim biface. He has presented this replica handaxe to the Group.

WORK UNDERTAKEN BY UNITS IN THE HISTORIC COUNTY

A. MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

Thames Foreshore (Simon Stevens) Site Code: TFJ96

An evaluation was undertaken to discover the depth and extent of archaeological deposit currently being exposed by the River's action, prior to the strengthening of the Underground Tunnels. All work was done at low tide using a basic grid to determine the profile of the current foreshore surface. Results were mixed because of the amount of water left in the deposits. A trial pit was dug but was also inconclusive. The original aim of reaching prehistoric peat deposits proved impossible.

Vauxhall Walk SE11 (Pat Miller) Site Code: VXH96

An evaluation comprising two trenches revealed a number of 18th and 19th-century pits cutting the natural deposits. Large ragstone and brick footings relating to the 19th-century school buildings on the site were also located. Some residual prehistoric flintwork were retrieved from one of the trenches.

LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Lafone Street (Jackie Bates) Site Code: LAF96

An excavation is now taking place following an evaluation carried out during March 1996, in which part of a possible timber revetment of medieval or post-medieval date was located. The first phase has just been completed. Further remains of the timber structure were recovered but, rather than a revetment, it is now provisionally thought to be the foundation for a bridge spanning an E-W aligned channel. The date is likely to be medieval, but dendrochronology dates should help to narrow the date range, since virtually no dating evidence was recovered on site. To the north of this channel, an earlier E-W aligned feature, possibly a boundary ditch, ran across the site. This truncated a possibly buried soil horizon which contained a fairly high proportion of worked flints, with occasional fragments of possible prehistoric pottery. To the south of this ditch, and truncated by the later channel, a number of criss-cross ard marks were revealed beneath the soil, cutting the natural sand. Similar ard marks have been recovered at the nearby sites of Phoenix Wharf and Wolsey Street.

Magdalen Street (Steve Chew) Site Code: MGS96

A 3-week excavation followed on from an evaluation on the site. Preliminary results indicate that an E-W channel, 4m wide, ran across the site. This had been repeatedly revetted and constructed from the early 16th-century. Four phases of revetting were identified and these were constructed using oak planking nailed to upright oak and

elm posts. The timbers had been re-used from at least two earlier ships — one a clinker-built barge and the other a later 'carvel'-type vessel. During the last phase of revetting (c. 1600) non-ship timbers were utilised including barrel staves and parts of a handbarrow. The preservation of these timbers was extremely good, showing detailed carpentry marks and techniques. A number of late 18th/early 17th-century structures had been 'built on' to the revetted channel (which was little more than an open sewer at this time) including timber-lined cesspits, a sluice and the remains of a privy. The channel was backfilled c. 1620 with domestic refuse. This deposit was particularly rich in artefacts, including many complete pots, delftware wasters, Bellamines, glass, leather, pewter and wooden objects. In the early 18th-century a number of dumped layers were deposited over the entire site allowing the construction of at least 3 brick-built structures and a number of wells and cesspits. The features associated with occupation in this period were very rich in finds.

Plough Way SE16 (Simon Stevens) Site Code: DWA96

An evaluation produced no archaeological features. However, a good sequence through river silts, peat and alluvial sands was recorded. This included an apparent interface between river channels and the peat and evidence of standing freshwater pools. Environmental analysis was taken and results are awaited.

Battlebridge Lane (Ian Grainger) Site Code: BAB95

Work was completed on the final three trenches of the excavation. The upper deposits consisting of a series of 17th/18th-century buildings were recorded and removed. Beneath these were a series of barrel wells, latrine pits, and levelling layers of 17th-century date. A timber drain, c. 10m long, of 17th-century or earlier date was also found. This was well-constructed with a series of lap joints and sleeper beams. A number of the sleeper beams were clearly reused pieces coming from earlier structures. A very large man-made cut was also found, this was probably a large industrial pond. The primary waterlaid fills were largely sterile, but the upper rubbish infilling contained a large amount of leather waste and animal bone, which represented industrial waste of 17th-century or earlier date. The pond had a channel, either draining out of it or feeding into it — in the direction of the Thames. Notable finds included four well-preserved, 18th-century wooden bowling balls, a number of leather shoes, and two complete Tudor Brown Ware sprinkling pots, which are handled enclosed vessels with a perforated base and a narrow neck with a small hole on the top. The vessel could be filled on immersion, and the flow, out of the bottom, would be controlled by covering the hole.

Borough High Street Ticket Hall (James Drummond Murray/Pete Thompson) Site Code: BGH95

Area B: There was no evidence of prehistoric activity. Several early Roman quarry pits were recorded, probably for gravel for road building. There were also some peat-filled ditches/channels indicating that the area was open for some time. An east-west road was laid out, presumably running to meet the north-south road beyond the limits of excavation to the west. Clay and timber strip buildings lined the road to the north and south. One had fragmentary evidence of timber floorboards, whilst another had a complex hearth/oven sequence. The road was relaid when the initial road slumped badly into a peat-filled ditch. Sealing both road and buildings was an extensive layer of burnt material and fire debris. This has been provisionally dated to the pre-Flavian. The area was then left open and several pits and wells were dug before a later phase of clay-and-timber buildings, which in turn was succeeded by at least one phase of masonry buildings.

Area D: No prehistoric activity was recorded on top of natural sands. There was some evidence for early Roman dumping, with domestic debris and redeposited sands similar to Area E. Peat deposits were also recorded in a large ditch and depression. A W-E road was laid with clay-and-timber 'strip' buildings either side, with some evidence for timber floors. Several areas of hearths are associated with some of these buildings. An extensive burnt destruction layer covered most of the area. A later phase of clay-and-timber buildings with *in situ* plank floors built. These were also associated with hearths/ovens. Part of a later masonry building and two wells were also recorded.

Area E: No evidence of prehistoric activity was recovered. In the early Roman period much of the area was covered by up to 0.30m of redeposited sand. Several west-east ditches were also excavated, which possibly drained or divided the open area. Further pits and two later square timber-lined wells were dug into this open-yard area. Some evidence of later clay-floored buildings was recorded at the south end. The area was much truncated by two large late medieval ditches and a series of post-medieval brick-lined pits/soakaways.

730 Old Kent Road (Lucy Wheeler) Site Code: OKT95

An evaluation was undertaken to establish the location of Watling Street and the London to Lewes Roman road. Two trenches were opened but no archaeological features pre-dating the 19th-century were uncovered.

B. PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Causton House, Hopton Street

Last year's evaluation of the site has led to a phased excavation between the middle of March and the end of June 1996.

Excavation of the 18th and 19th century glassworks took place over the first five weeks. Remains of the furnace base and flue along with extensive dumps of glass manufacture waste were recorded. Underlying the glassworks was up to 1.5m of waterlain alluvium over the natural sands. It was this interface that produced extensive evidence of late neolithic/early bronze age settlement activity. Significant quantities of flint tools, flakes and burnt flint and pottery were recovered. Numerous stake holes and a few pits were excavated. The activity extended across the site ie about 40m by 15m. A further phase of work will take place next year.

The prehistoric activity is similar to that recorded to the east of Bankside Power Station in 1989 and suggests that the sand/gravel island on which the power station sits was the location for a late neolithic/early bronze age settlement.

COURSES

Talking about Archaeology in and around Surrey Heath.

ROMAN, SAXON and MEDIEVAL LIFE 40 – 1450 AD

This popular 10 week course will be provided on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10.00 – 12.00 commencing on the 8th and 10th of January 1997 at The Archaeology Centre in Bagshot, Surrey.

To enrol please contact: The Enrolment Office. S.Y.A.E.S., France Hill Drive, Camberley. Surrey GU15 3QA. Telephone 01276 20145.

DAY SCHOOLS

The following courses are organised by the Centre for Continuing Studies, University of Sussex. Further details obtainable from CCE, Education Development Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RG (Tel. 01273 678924).

14th December. "The Archaeology of Sicily". Tutor: John Manley. To be held at Sussex University.

1997

11th January. "Fortifications of the Hundred Years War — England and Normandy". Tutor: Richard Jones. To be held at Barbican House, Lewes.

18th January. "Round Barrow, Death, Ritual and Society in the British Bronze Age". Tutor: Paul Garwood. To be held at Sussex University.

LECTURES

Royal Archaeological Institute

Young Persons' Lecture, Saturday 14 December

The Institute's annual lecture for young people will be held on a Saturday this year, at 3.00 pm in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House; doors will open at 2.30 pm and there will be refreshments afterwards. A slide-talk will be given by Dr Robert Prescott, a specialist in maritime studies at St Andrews University, on

'Business in Great Waters: the archaeology of ships and seafarers'

Admission will be *by ticket only*, obtainable in advance from the Assistant Secretary of the Institute, c/o Society of Antiquaries. Tickets cost £2.00 for those under 18 years and £3.50 for anyone older. Please note that children below the age of 13 must be accompanied by somebody aged 15 or over. No adults will be admitted unless each is accompanied by a child; the adults need not be members of the Institute.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mrs P K Boland, 33 Elmside, Guildford, GU2 5SH

Miss A C Bradley, 9 Home Farm Close, Esher, KT10 9HA

A R Chevalier, 198 Demesne Road, Wallington, SM6 8EN

S Davies, Cockayne, Markway, Godalming, GU7 2BE

Miss H L Earis, 56 Nightingale Road, Godalming, GU7 2HU

Dr S Ford, 77 Watlington Street, Reading, Berks, RG1 4RQ

Oriel and Julie Frith, 6 Beech Lane, Guildford, GU2 5ES.

T A Goskar, 34 Beaulieu Gardens, Blackwater, Camberley, GU17 0LA

Miss D M Hannaford, 2 Perseverance Cottages, High Street, Ripley, GU23 6AG

Mrs J A Hicks, 20 Blackdown Close, Pyrford, Woking, GU22 8LQ

M J Hodge, 52 Milner Drive, Whitton, Twickenham, Middx TW2 7PJ

P J Howarth, 186 Craddocks Avenue, Ashted, KT21 1NX

A N Keay, 37 Merrymeet, Woodmansterne, SM7 3HX

I A McKenzie, 3 Maskell Way, Southwood, Farnborough, Hants GU14 0PU

K L Martin, 2 Dawson Road, Byfleet, West Byfleet, KT14 7JD
E S Morgan, 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY
Dr M Oliver, 3 Keston Court Farm Cottages, Blackness Lane, Keston, Kent BR2 6HR
Charles and Alison Owen, Waterworks Cottage, Blacksmith Lane, Chilworth,
Guildford, GU4 8NL
K R Pringle, 24 Waverley Lane, Farnham, GU9 8BQ
Mrs S Prosser, Little Bagham, 18B Wray Park Road, Reigate, RH2 0DD
Mrs S E Rossell, 21 Cheylesmore Drive, Camberley, GU16 5BL
C J Rymer, 65 Sarsfield Road, Balham, London SW12 8HF
T J Sheaf, 4 Thames Street, Hampton, Middx. TW12 2EA
Harvey Sheldon, 112 Oglander Road, London SE15 4DB
Colin & Loraine Thomas, 9 St Leonards Road, Epsom Downs, KT18 5RG
R Watson, 390 Woodham Lane, Woodham, Addlestone, KT15 3PR
P R Winder, 6 Mountside, Church Hill, Caterham, CR3 6SA

MEETINGS

2nd December

Annual General Meeting followed by "The History of the British Police Service". A lecture by Mr R Ford to the Mayford and Woking District History Society at Mayford Village Hall at 7.45 pm. Visitors welcome. Entry £2.

2nd December

"Railways around Egham 1856-1996". A lecture by Ron Davis to the Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in the Research Room of Egham Museum, Egham Literary Institute at 8.00 pm. Members £1.50; non-members £2.00.

5th December

"Management of Archaeological Resources — problems, prescriptions and perspectives". A lecture by Ian Dormor to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm.

6th December

"Abinger: Excavation and Research of the Roman Villa". A lecture by Steve Dyer to the Holmesdale Natural History Club at The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate at 8.15 pm.

6th December

"Magic and Medicine in Modern Mesopotamia". A lecture by Dr Irving Finkel, Curator, Dept of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the BM, to the Richmond Archaeological Society in The Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8.00 pm. Non-members £2.00.

7th December

"Surrey and the Picture Postcard". A lecture by John Gent to the Merton Historical Society at the Snuff Mill Environmental Centre, Morden Hall Park at 2.30 pm.

7th December

"Hogarth and Hogarth's House". A lecture by Allan Downend to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton at 3.00 pm.

12th December

"From Riches to Rags: wardrobes for life and death in new kingdom Egypt". A lecture by Rosalind Janssen from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology to the Friends of Guildford Museum in the Guildhall, Guildford High Street at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00 by prior booking from the Lecture Series Co-ordinator, Guildford Museum (Tel. 01483 444752). Send SAE.

16th December

"The road to the Workhouse". A lecture by Dorothy Day to the Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in the Research Room of Egham Museum, Egham Literary Institute at 8.00 pm. Members £1.50; non-members £2.00.

18th December

"A World War I Evening" organised by the Bourne Society at the Douglas Brunton Day Centre, Chaldon Road, Caterham on the Hill at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm.

19th December

"The development of Christmas Music and Carols". A lecture by Richard Coulson, Director of Music, Christ Church, Esher to the Esher District LHS at Esher Place, Esher Park Avenue at 7.30 pm.

19th December

"Historical Basis of Festive Food". A lecture by Anne Jones to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm.

20th December

"A Christmas Miscellany" presented by Gordon Knowles to the Leatherhead & District LHS at the Leatherhead Institute at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. Admission 50p members; £1.00 non-members.

1997**4th January**

"Animals, art and archaeology in Zimbabwe". The Hilda Clarke Memorial Lecture given by Tony Allen to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton at 3.00 pm.

10th January

"Treasures of the Caribbean" (Historic Buildings of the West Indies). The John Tunnadine Memorial Lecture given by Mr Barry Clark to the Holmesdale Natural History Club, in The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate at 8.15 pm. Non-members £2.00.

11th January

"The History of Garson Farm". A lecture by Peter Thompson to the Walton & Weybridge LHS at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall, Church Street, Weybridge at 3.00 pm.

14th January

"Alfred the Great Reconsidered". A lecture by Prof Jinty Nelson to the West Surrey Branch of the Historical Association at the Friends' Meeting House, North Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members: £1.50 adults; 50p students.

16th January

"John Henry Knight and Badshot Lea". A lecture by Maurice Hewins to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm.

16th January

"Barnes Common". 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.

16th January

"Mesopotamia: the world's first civilisation". A lecture by Paul Collins from the Institute of Archaeology to the Friends of Guildford Museum, to be held in the Guildhall, Guildford High Street, at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00 by prior booking from the Lecture Series Co-ordinator, Guildford Museum (Tel. 01483 444752). Send SAE.

21st January

"The Excise Officers and their Duties in Kingston from 1843 onwards". A lecture by John Pink to the Friends of Kingston Museum and Heritage Service in the Ante-Chamber of the Market House, the Market Place, Kingston at 8.00 pm. Voluntary donation of £1.50 is suggested.

1st February

"Tudor Surrey". A lecture by Peter Edwards to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton at 3.00 pm.

5th February

"Historic Gardens in Surrey". A lecture by Mrs Brenda Lewis, Secretary of the Surrey Gardens Trust to the Holmesdale Natural History Club in The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate at 8.15 pm. Non-members £2.00.

8th February

"The Road to the Workhouse". A lecture by Dorothy Davies to the Walton & Weybridge LHS in the Elmgrove Hall, Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames at 3.00 pm.

Advance Notices

22nd February 1997

ARC Annual Symposium, Dorking Christian Centre.

22nd March 1997

Surrey Local History Council Spring Meeting "Family History for Local Historians" to be held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Farnham.

April/May 1997

A series of six lectures to be held in Shalford Village Hall. Details elsewhere in this Bulletin; booking forms to be distributed with the next issue.

Editor's Note

This is my last issue as Hon Editor of the Bulletin and I should like to thank all those who have helped and contributed in any way to its publication. I am grateful to you all for your support. Phil Jones, a member of the Society and a member of the Surrey County Council Archaeological Unit is taking over in the New Year.

Please continue to send notes, items of interest and Newsletters to him at the address below. Audrey Monk

A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Next Issue: Copy required by 3rd January 1997 for the February/mid March issue.

Editor: Phil Jones, 15 Grove Crescent, Kingston upon Thames Tel: 0181-549-5244.