

**SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD**

Number 84

December 1971

BULLETIN

Edited by Rosamond Hanworth, Folly Hill, Ewhurst, Surrey

EXCAVATION NOTICE

**M23/25 RESCUE EXCAVATION
CROYDON, MERSTHAM AND GODSTONE RAILWAY**

T.Q. 2994 5395

Director: J. Shenton

The C.M. and G.R. extension of the Surrey Iron Railway was completed up to the Quarries at Quarry Dean Farm, half a mile north of Merstham Station in the year 1805. Nelson's victory at Trafalgar obviated the need to carry the horse drawn railway to Portsmouth as intended. This southern terminus is now to be destroyed by the M23.

Excavation of the area has started and will continue throughout the Winter, each Saturday and Sunday.

Finds to date include 9 stone sleepers and 1 iron rail in situ, one George III half-penny of 1806, several iron spikes which were driven into a hole in the sleeper filled with a wooden plug to secure the rails, parts of Horse Harness and pot sherds etc. The alignment of the sleepers indicates that there had been more than one set of metals—a Loading Bay or Siding?

Help is urgently required, with or without experience. The site can be approached either from the Jolliffe Arms by following the road running South below the old Greystone Lime Works for about 600 yards or along a lane running north from Rockshaw Road.

Enquiries to the Director, J. Shenton, Walton-on-Thames 24396.

NOTES

M.23 and M.25 Rescue

At recent meetings, the Council of the Society has given consideration to the loss to archaeology and to Surrey history which will occur if the construction of the motorways is not kept under continuous observation. A small ad hoc committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Kathleen Kenyon, has been set up to review the situation and to guide policy.

Members have demonstrated that they are able and willing to assist in the recording and excavation of sites and their services are being co-ordinated at present by Dr. Brian Kirsop of South Nutfield. The Society has been in touch with the Department of the Environment and hopes to receive some financial assistance for the excavation of selected sites but at present it is not the practice of the Department to assign personnel to observe motorway construction or to make grants for this work. To be effective, observation must be carried out continuously by properly qualified persons—a condition that cannot be met by voluntary effort which is available principally at weekends.

The Society's Council, therefore, convinced of the importance of the work—careful observation of the line of the M5 in Gloucestershire resulted in the investigation of approximately two sites every motorway mile—has decided to draw on the Society's limited reserves of capital to pay for a professional archaeological officer. It is hoped that Mr. Harvey Sheldon will soon be appointed to this post.

The Society's funds will not be sufficient to maintain this post, and to provide the necessary services, throughout the whole of the period of motorway construction and the County Council have been urged to contribute substantially to the project. Every effort is being made, also, to obtain support from other sources.

(D. J. Turner).

New Members from 1st October, 1971

P. A. C. Shaw, Esq., A.C.W.A., 10 Range View, College Town, Camberley.
J. Farrimond, Esq., 19 Ash Grove, Orrell, Wigan, Lancs.
N. G. Harvey, Esq., 86 Waltham Avenue, Guildford.
A. C. C. Rowe, Esq., B.A., The Hallams, Shamley Green, Guildford.

Junior Members

K. W. Wells, 222 Banstead Road, Banstead.
Miss C. R. Wollen, 19 Fitzwilliam Avenue, Kew, Richmond.
A. G. Brigham, 2 Upper Rose Hill, Dorking.

Membership List

A list of members will be prepared at the end of the year. This will be issued free to members ordering in advance. Orders to the Hon. Sec. at Castle Arch by 31st December. Local Secretaries and other officers will receive copies without placing orders.

(D. J. Turner).

Local History Organisations List

A revision of the list of Surrey Local History Organisations published in November 1969 is now under way.

It will be necessary, for the sake of accuracy, to obtain up-to-date particulars from each organisation listed, even from those whose particulars have not changed in the last two years.

Particulars, as appropriate, which are required are: 1 The correct name of the organisation; 2 The Secretary's name, address and telephone number. 3 Subscriptions; 4 Interests of the organisation; 5 Publications of the organisation.

Secretaries are asked to send the above information to the District Librarian, Central Public Library, Stafford Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6JG, as soon as convenient.

(L. C. Silverthorne).

Beddington Roman Villa: Beddington Sewage Farm (TQ 298658)

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society report an inspection of this site, in August, by representatives of their and other societies and the Department of the Environment, to assess the possibility of damage by mechanical sludge shifting then in progress.

Apprehension appeared to be justified and it was understood the Department of the Environment's representative would endeavour to arrange the placing of markers to indicate the depth to which disturbance should be limited.

This site was excavated c.1870 (S.A.C. VI. 117-21) and in 1963 (S.A.C. LX. 37-44). The published route of the M.23 motorway passes safely west of the known remains but these could be endangered by changes resulting from any re-siting of the, as yet, unfinished Beddington interchange or by movements of machinery and material involved in building the motorway embankment.

It can be assumed that when the sewage farm was laid out, c.1870, remains were encountered only when trenches were sunk for drains. Romano-British and Saxon burials in the comparatively near vicinity imply that habitation sites of both periods may lie in the path of the motorway, across this farm, and be buried by the embankment. Observation of work in progress might not reveal these, as the surface might not be broken to a sufficient depth.

(K. A. Pryer).

Netherne Lane: Thirteenth Century Manor House: (TQ 293558)

Iron Working site

Since the report in *Bulletin* 73 little of interest has been found on the site of the House and this has now been filled in. The flint boundary wall was found to be 144ft long, ending in a corner with a return wall measuring 16ft. The corner was built over either a deliberately demolished earlier flint building or a flint revetment of at least 4ft 6in deep above which the flint courses of the wall itself still stand over 2ft high. It is estimated that the wall was at least 5ft high and when viewed from the outside ditch must have been an impressive sight.

It is now almost certain that this was the sub-manor of Alsted, the forerunner of Alderstead, held by the De Passele family from the end of the thirteenth to the middle of the fourteenth century, i.e. for about seventy years. The earlier period House evidently belonged to the original Aldersteds, a son of whom married a wealthy De Passele heiress and took her name which accounted for the enlarging of the House circa 1280. It is believed that his grandson started a farm on newly acquired land just over a mile away and this farm became the Manor of Alderstead, now Alderstead Farm, after the old House, Alsted, had fallen into decay.

This season's work has centred on an industrial site 120 yards south of the House at which iron-working was carried on on quite a large scale. The buildings were timber-framed wooden sheds on low flint foundations built in line extending over 100ft by 16ft wide. It is believed that these sheds were partly open at the sides, as some farm buildings are at the present day and they were tiled with rough clay tiles somewhat smaller than those of the House. The west end of the sheds was partitioned off forming a room 12ft by 16ft which may have been a storeroom or possibly living quarters for the Iron-master. In the next 'compartment' is a large sandstone hearth, 6ft square. The middle section has not yet been excavated, but the east end contains a very large elaborately built forge with two hearths on a platform of clay and flints approximately 9ft square.

Along the north side of the buildings is a well constructed road or courtyard on gravel, overlaid with iron cinder, topped with chalk, which stops short of the forge. There are also layers of iron cinder and some slag along the south side of the buildings, particularly at the west end. Outside the west end is a small pit surrounded by flint and sandstone blocks in which was black earth and charcoal and lumps of 'furnace bottom' in situ. The interior of this hearth is no more than 2ft square and although it has the ingredients of a bloomery it is certainly far too small to have served the big forge. The earth for a large area around this hearth is black and almost solid with iron cinder and a little slag.

Pottery has not been plentiful and seems to be of two distinct periods, some being contemporary with the earlier period of the House, i.e. circa middle thirteenth century, but the majority is a fine creamy-white hard ware, green glazed, of which there was only a little on the House site. The inference is that the iron works continued for a while after the House was abandoned in about 1350. This is also borne out by the fact that some of the sandstone incorporated in the buildings seems to have been robbed from the House. Although pottery is rather scarce, iron objects are not and over a hundred recognisable pieces have been recovered.

Although Surrey is quite famous for its iron works in the Weald post 1500 AD, a relatively undisturbed thirteenth-fourteenth century site on the Downs must be quite rare and therefore of some interest. Excavation continues.

(Lesley Ketteringham).

Wallington High School for Boys (TQ 28906501)

During April and May this year a small excavation was carried out by the London Museum in the grounds of Wallington High School for Boys on the site of a proposed school extension. The work was by kind permission of the London Borough of Sutton and was carried out by members of the school and the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. Originally known as Bunkers Field, the site has in the past yielded much archaeological material including Iron Age and Saxon pottery in excavations carried out in 1922/23 (S.A.C. XXVI), and in 1970 further sherds of EIA period were found at a distance of some twenty metres from the present site while new cricket nets were being installed.

It is therefore disappointing to report that in what initially appeared to be such a promising area no archaeological features, apart from one possible post hole, came to light. All the finds came from the 80cm or so of topsoil overlying the Thanet Sand on the surface of which was a layer of large flint nodules presumably derived from the nearby chalk. The pottery consists of 240 small sherds of coarse hand-made fabric and includes one handle, six rim and two base fragments. It is reddish brown in colour and contains large particles of calcined flint grit. The flint material, the bulk of which would appear to be Mesolithic consists of a mass of waste flakes and several cores, scrapers and blades. It is hoped to publish a fuller report on the pottery and flint at a later stage.

(Alison Laws).

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society

This Society has now been in existence for just over two years. Since its formation in 1969 from a small group of volunteers assisting Kingston Museum excavations it has grown to a membership of 120, and has extended its activities to include not only excavation but also building recording, documentary research and conservation. The need for this broadening of interests has been increasingly felt in Kingston where much has already disappeared without trace or record and where development and change is an integral part of the Borough's urban character.

Building recording—The Society has recently undertaken a detailed survey of No. 1 Thames Street, Kingston, under the supervision of Mr. I. West. The front part of the building was probably a merchant's house dating from c.1600 and there are four phases of later buildings to the rear. Detailed recording of all the buildings which have been demolished

in the Borough recently has not been possible but photographs have been taken whenever feasible to show the nature of the buildings and their contribution to the street scene. In addition an index of streets and buildings in the Borough is in preparation so that as information is obtained from various sources it can be filed appropriately for future reference.

Documentary research—Kingston is fortunate in having the Surrey Record Office close at hand and with the active assistance and encouragement of Miss Gollancz and her staff the Society is engaged in various projects including the transcription of the first Minute Book of Kingston Bailiffs, 1705-23, and the indexing of the Kingston Tithe Apportionment. Work has also begun on the indexing of back issues of the Surrey Comet using the bound volumes in Kingston Central Reference Library.

Informal meetings are held from time to time to report progress on these projects and to discuss documentary evidence relating to current fieldwork. They provide an opportunity for local historians and archaeologists to exchange ideas and information, and the value of a joint approach was apparent in the preparation of the Society's case for the preservation of Picton House.

(Marion P. Smith).

Recent Publications

New Bourne Society Publications

Index to Bourne Society Local History Records and Bulletin 1956-70, 32pp. 15p. (A very detailed compilation, including over 200 roads and 200 field names).

Local History Records XI 1972, 48pp, 15p. Contents: Mary Alderton, Tollgates; Dorothy Tutt, Thomas Kelly 1772-1855; Una Broadbent, A Coulsdon Lord Mayor (Thomas Harley) and his house; Basil Cracknell, The Surrey Green Belt; Alan Penner, Couling's of Caterham; Mary Saaler, Operation Pipeline 1965-1971; Raymond Clarke, Riddlesdown; Arthur Davies-Jones, The Lord Mayor of London in Caterham; Kenneth Newbury, Our Oldest Inhabitants? Illustrations by Kathleen Lewis, E. F. Bishop etc. 3 maps.

COURSES

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY: WEEKEND LECTURE COURSE

Glyn House, Ewell: 6 p.m. Friday 3rd March to 5 p.m. Sunday 5th March. Lectures will cover the organisation of fieldwork; specialist aspects; urban fieldwork; fieldwork and rescue; and particular aspects of fieldwork in Surrey. There will be residential and non residential places. Arranged jointly by S.A.S. and Surrey County Council. Fees approximately £5 residential, £2 non residential (meals extra).

For details apply to the Area Principal, Further Education Centre, Old Council Offices, Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey.

East Surrey Institute of Further Education Lectures

Warlingham County Secondary School, Tithe Pit, Shaw Lane, Warlingham. Tel.: Upper Warlingham 2287 (Evenings only). Historic Buildings (1 term) from Tuesday, 11th January, 7.30-9.30, H. B. Anning, Member of the Guild of Guide Lecturers, £1 plus 10p.

Woodhatch Branch Library, Trehaven Parade, Reigate. Historic Buildings of England (10 weeks from Thursday, 14th January, 10.15-11.45). H. B. Anning, £1 plus 10p.

Chaldon C. of E. Primary School, Rook Lane, Chaldon.

January 12 A New Look at Local History, James Batley, Chairman, Bourne Society.

January 19 Looking at Old Buildings, Kay Percy, Surrey Archaeological Society.

January 26 Prehistoric and Roman Remains in our District, Mary Saaler, Local Secretary, Surrey Archaeological Society.

February 2 Buses in East Surrey, A. G. Newman—author of "Southbound from Croydon".

February 9 Writing a Parish History, Una Broadbent—author of "A Short History of Coulsdon".

February 16 Rural Bygones, Alan Penner—organiser of The English Hearth Exhibit.

February 23 The Town Scene, John Gent—editor of "Croydon, the Story of 100 Years".

March 1 Local Worthies, Raymond Clarke—friend of Arthur Beadell.

March 8 Bells, Douglas Hughes, Master Bell Founder.

March 15 Pictures as a Source of Local History, Dorothy Tutt, Secretary, Bourne Society.

N.B. There is a slide projector available with compère Mrs. Wilshin Caterham 43767. There is a coffee break.

S.A.S. SYMPOSIUM, 1972. Advance Notice.

The Society's 1972 Symposium will take place at Charterhouse School, Godalming, by kind permission of the Headmaster, on 15th April. The theme will be Rescue Work within the County. Full details in Bulletin 85 (February).

MEETINGS

DECEMBER

Thursday 2nd, 8 p.m.

SOUTH EASTERN RIVERS AND THEIR HISTORIES. Talk by Brian Price to Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluchouse Lane, Oxted.

Friday 3rd, 7.30 p.m.

G.L.I.A.S. WORKSHOP. A representative of "Rescue" will be attending, to outline "Rescue's" aims in the Greater London area. A welcome is extended to any S.A.S. Members who would care to come. At the Kingston Polytechnic, Penrhyn Road, Kingston.

Saturday 4th, 3 p.m.

SOME GREEK AND TURKISH CLASSICAL SITES. Talk by J. R. Haynes to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington A.S. at Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors 5p. Tea 10p.

Monday 6th, 8 p.m.

A.G.M. of the Mayford History Society, and Exhibition, at the Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.

Wednesday 8th, 8 p.m.

THE FIELDS OF MORTLAKE AND SHEEN. Talk by Mr. R. Gill to Wandsworth Historical Society at West Hill Library, S.W.18.

Thursday 9th, 7.30 p.m.

ANCIENT EGYPT. Talk by Mr. A. G. Rigden to Clapham Antiquarian Society at St. Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, S.W.12.

Tuesday 21st, 8 p.m.

THE TRAMS OF KINGSTON. Talk by Mr. G. L. Gundry to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield Road, Kingston.
Road, S.W.12.

JANUARY

Saturday 8th, 3 p.m.

WORK OF THE GREATER LONDON INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Talk by Paul Carter to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington A.S. at Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors 5p. Tea 10p.

Thursday 13th, 8 p.m.

ROMAN, MEDIEVAL AND MODERN TOWNS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE. Talk by Miss Yolande Paterson to the Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

Saturday 15th, 3 p.m.

A.G.M. of Clapham Antiquarian Society at St. Luke's Hall, Ramsden

Tuesday 18th, 8 p.m.

THE HISTORY OF NEW MALDEN. Talk by Miss C. A. E. Nicklin to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield West, Kingston.

Wednesday 19th, 8.15 p.m.

AFTER THE DIG IS DUG. Talk on Oatlands Palace Excavation by Miss Sheila Richardson to Walton & Weybridge L.H.S. at Elm Grove, Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames.

Thursday 20th, 8 p.m.

16TH AND 17TH CENTURY COSTUMES. Talk by Miss Marie Hill to Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

Thursday 27th, 8 p.m.

EXPLORATION OF THE SAHARA. Talk by Nicholas Withers to Oxted & District H.S. at the Oxted County School, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

FEBRUARY

Saturday 5th, 2.45 p.m.

A.G.M. Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington A.S., followed at 4 p.m. by **EXCAVATION OF BISHOP OF ARGYLL'S CASTLE ON LISMORE.** Talk by D. J. Turner. At Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors 5p. Tea 10p.

Friday 11th, 8.15 p.m.

Almonry, Buckingham Palace, to Merton Historical Society at the Lecture Room, Morden Library, Morden Road, Morden.

Friday 11th, 8 p.m.

MEDIEVAL HOUSES IN SURREY. Talk by Joan Harding to the Holmesdale Natural History Club at The Museum, Croydon Road, Reigate.

Saturday 12th, 3 p.m.

HERALDRY. Talk by Mr. J. W. Lindus Forge to Walton & Weybridge L.H.S. at the Lecture Hall, Weybridge Library.

Tuesday 15th, 8 p.m.

SOME KINGSTON HILL HOUSES AND THEIR INHABITANTS. Talk by Mr. F. E. Manning to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Lecture Hall, Fairfield West, Kingston.

Thursday 17th, 7.30 p.m.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN SOUTH LONDON. Talk by Mr. J. H. Ashdown to Clapham Antiquarian Society at St. Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, S.W.12.

Friday 18th, 7.45 p.m.

COMMERCIAL FARNHAM IN 1872. Talk by Ashton Booth to Farnham Museum Society at the Institute of Further Education, Potters Gate, Farnham.

Next Issue

The next issue of the **Bulletin** will be in February, there will be none in January. Copy for the February issue is required by 5th January.

GUILDFORD

A Biography

E. R. Chamberlin

A comprehensive and well-illustrated history of Guildford. A superb gift for anyone interested in local history.

4 maps 16 pp plates

Macmillan £3.15