NOTES.

[*Under this heading the Editor will be pleased to insert notes and short articles relative to discoveries and other matters of interest in the history and archæology of the County. All communications intended for this section should be addressed to the Castle Arch, Guildford.*]

I.

AN ANCHORITE'S CELL AT LETHERHEAD CHURCH.

On the occasion of the visit of the Surrey Archæological Society to Letherhead Church, in July, 1904, attention was drawn by the Vicar, Canon (now Archdeacon) Utterton, to a blocked door and a peculiar square rebated opening, also blocked, adjacent to it, in the eastern part of the north wall of the chancel. The writer then offered the suggestion that these were relics of a destroyed anchorite's cell, and advised that the ground around the wall should be searched for traces of the foundations.

Our member, Mr. H. E. Malden, reinforced this suggestion in the late autumn (1906), and as a result the writer was invited by Archdeacon Utterton to superintend the excavation, which was very carefully done by the vicarage gardener, assisted by another labourer, on several days in October.

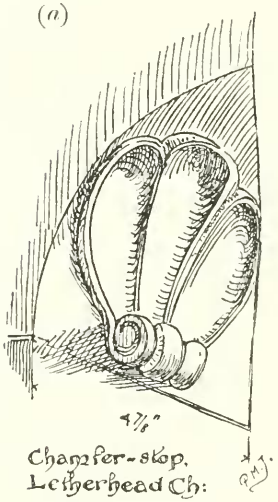
The result was most gratifying. At a slight depth below the surface the foundations of the massive flint walls, 3 ft. thick, of a square chamber, exactly 8 ft. × 8ft., were discovered, the eastern wall ranging with the east wall of the chancel.

Letherhead Church is fairly well known, but a few words of general description may help to the better understanding of this discovery. The church stands well upon a slight eminence, overlooking the town and the waters of the Mole. It is built of flints with Reigate stone dressings, most of which have been replaced externally by Bath stone in the successive restorations since the 'fifties.

There are many peculiarities about the plan, which comprises chancel, transepts, nave, aisles, north porch, and western tower. The nave—built about 1190 to 1200—is 23 ft. wide, the walls of the arcades being of the exceptional thickness of nearly 4 ft. The north aisle is narrow compared with the nave—under 10 ft. in width: the south aisle was probably rebuilt in the 14th or 15th century, and is somewhat wider. There is an arcade of four arches on the south, and

of three on the north,[1] with very massive columns, alternately circular and octagonal, built of small stones. The arches, which are of two orders, the outer moulded and the inner plain, with a small chamfer, are pointed; and the voussoirs of this inner order are remarkable for their length and narrowness, being in one stone 2 ft. × about 5 in., instead of in "quoin work," with a core of rubble, as is usually the case. The capitals follow the circular and octagonal lines of the columns, and are simply moulded, except in the case of a column on the north (1st from E.), which has some early trefoil foliage round its bell. The rounded and hollowed abacus of some of the capitals corresponds in section with a common pattern found in the Early Pointed work of Sussex, marked by Norman-French influence.[2] It is noteworthy that the bases of these columns get higher towards the east, showing that the original floor level sloped upwards in the same direction.[3]

(*a*)



The stately chancel arch, of the same period, and of two boldly moulded orders with an outer hood, is acutely pointed and rests upon chamfered recessed piers, the outer chamfers having the very remarkable ornament of a scallop shell, forming a stop to the chamfer.[4] See illustration (*a*).

It is evident that this arch was planned as one of the supports of a central tower which was probably never carried out. Instead, the fine Perpendicular western tower was built in the latter part of the 15th century. Its axis is twisted in an extraordinary manner towards the north, because of the exigencies of the site. The porch and some windows of the nave and transepts are also of this date, and the modern dormer windows, which are a characteristic feature of the church, reproduce similar windows of the late 15th

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[1] A blank wall-space towards the west has lately been pierced with an additional arch of different character to the old.

[2] *E. g.*, at Clymping and Rustington, and many of the neighbouring churches along the seaboard. The column with carving is illustrated in the *Victoria History of Surrey*, Vol. II, p. 426.

[3] As at St. Mary's, Guildford, and in the churches of Rottingdean and Fletching, Sussex.

[4] Illustrated also by the writer in the article on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of Surrey, *Victoria County Histories*, Vol. II, p. 451, in which the connection of this little ornament with the capitals of the chancel arch at Merstham and the arm of a stone bench at Chipstead, Surrey, is shown.

century.[1] The arch to the south transept from the aisle and fine octagonal font belong to the same period. There is a marked inequality, both in width and length, between the transepts, the north being about 17 ft. wide, and the south only about 13 ft. 6in.[2]

Both no doubt had their altars, and in connection with that in the north transept an image bracket and a somewhat elaborate squint remain. At the angle of the south transept and the chancel the masonry has the appearance of Norman work, and if it be so is the oldest piece of the existing structure.

The extreme narrowness of the chancel (about 14 ft. 9 in.), taken together with this early masonry, renders it practically certain that the present chancel is built upon the lines of the Norman one, possibly with a prolongation to the eastward when it was rebuilt in about 1320. Its walls, which are a yard in thickness, are pierced with five very elegant windows (see the illustration (*b*), on next page), of two lights in the side walls and three in the east, with flowing tracery of an early reticulated pattern, very similar to one in the chancel of Reigate Church. Externally the tracery has been renewed, but upon the old lines, as is proved by reference to Cracklow's view (1824). There is a string-course beneath them inside.

The sedilia and piscina are also modern, but copied from the originals. A small blocked recess of nondescript character, which has been dubbed, somewhat doubtfully, a low-side window, is to be seen outside in the eastern part of the south wall.

Behind the altar is the large and well-preserved slab of the mediæval altar, bearing its five crosses.

The anchorite's cell on the north side of the chancel retains its squint and door of communication in a good state of preservation, as shown on next page in the drawing to scale. The squint, 1 ft. 9 in. square, rebated for a shutter on the cell side, is placed high up in the wall, its sill being about 7 ft. 9 in. above the level of the floor—a fact which seems to dispose of the sacristy theory. As the plan shows, this squint exactly commanded the high altar; and I would suggest that it served the purpose of enabling the anchorite to watch the light that was kept burning perpetually before the Blessed Sacrament. It seems likely that his sleeping place was upon a raised platform immediately below the sill of this window, to which he would ascend by a short ladder from below—so that he could easily, by opening his shutter, watch the light; and doubtless he could, if the door of communication with the church were not blocked, enter the building by this means, and so make his Communion, and take part in the daily offices. Doubtless also he had his window, high up in the gable wall, for light, and a shuttered opening in one of the external walls near the ground, through which he received food and alms and held speech with men. Of these, of course, now no trace is left.

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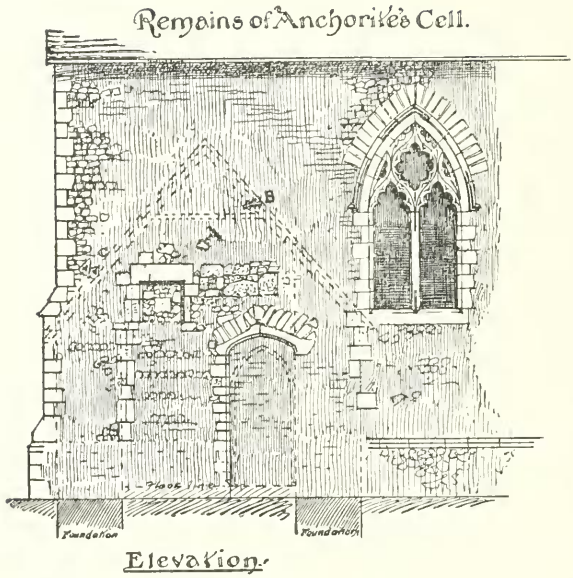
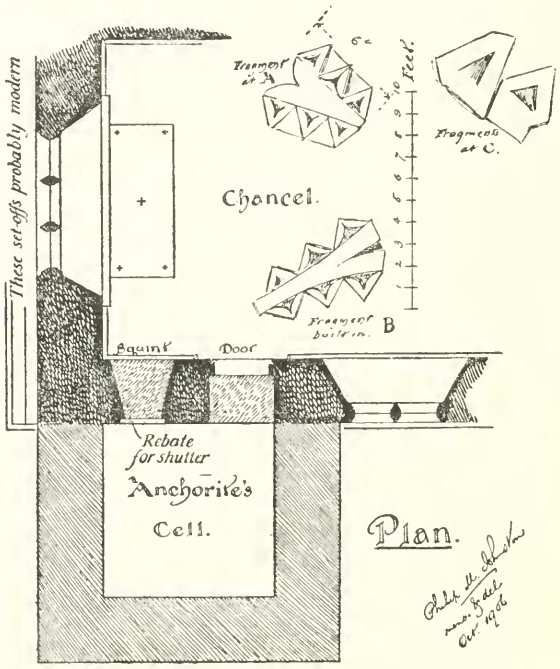
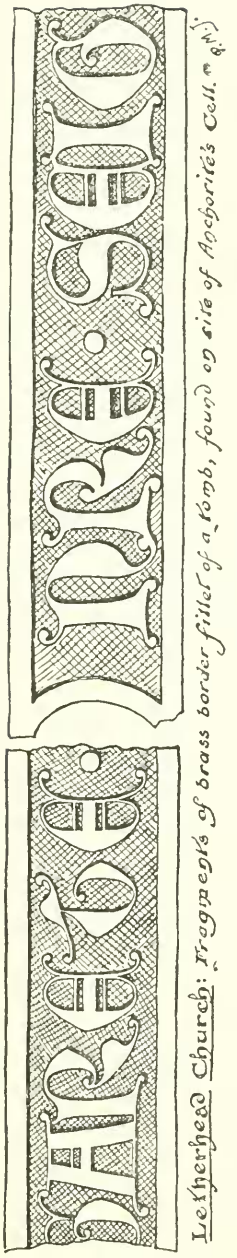
[1] Found necessary even in the days before printed books, because of the great width of the nave and the low pitch of the aisles with their lean-to roofs.

[2] The north transept has been prolonged to form a vestry, etc., in recent years.


Remains of Anchorite's Cell.
B
Foundation
Foundation
Elevation.


These set-offs probably modern
Fragment at A
Fragment at C.
Chancel.
Fragment built in.
B
Squint
Door
Rebate for shutter
Anchorite's Cell.
Plan.

(*b*)



(*c*)

In the case of many anchorites' cells—such as that at Hardham, Sussex, remains of which were brought to light by the writer—the recluse would seem to have been more strictly "mured up" than in others.[1] He never passed beyond the walls of his narrow cell; and at last the walled-up door was broken through, and he was buried beneath its floor. But in other cases he appears to have had liberty to roam the church at will, and even, as in the case of the well-known Richard Rolle, of Hampole, to have wandered abroad for long periods.

We have, in Surrey, in the church of Shere, also on the north of the chancel, but near its western end, the oblique squint and quatrefoil-shaped sacramental opening of an anchorite's cell of the former class,[2] while of the latter type of cell, that at the equally well-known church of Compton—on the south side of the chancel—is a very perfect and interesting example. It is of two stories, having an external door and an internal door and a small window, besides a very remarkable cruciform squint, shaped like a cross-bow oylet in military architecture.

The probable lines of the roof of the cell at Letherhead are indicated upon the drawing (*b*) on previous page, but it should be understood that these are only conjectural, although based upon sufficient evidence. It will be noticed also that vertical strips of stone quoining remain, one internal and the other external to the cell walls; and that a number of older wrought and moulded stones, some shown at large on the drawing, are built into the walling. The character of these shows clearly that a Norman and Early English (or Transition Norman) chancel was pulled down, or partially removed, to make way for the present Early Decorated work.

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[1] *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, Vol. XLIV, p. 78.

[2] Illustrated by the writer in *S. A. C.*, Vol. XIV, p. 116. The water-table of the roof of this cell is plainly visible against the wall and buttress outside. Judging by such slight indications as these, the cell would appear to have been built with the rebuilding of the chancel very early in the 14th century.

A small discovery of some interest was made during the excavation to recover the lines of the foundations of the cell. Two strips of brass, $5\frac{3}{8}$ in. and $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. long respectively, by $1\frac{7}{8}$ in. wide, were found buried in the soil, together with a piece of thick coloured glass.[1] They proved to be parts of a fillet, originally bordering a tomb slab, probably belonging to a person or family of some note in the neighbourhood. The date is early in the 14th century—about the same, in fact, judging by the style of the elegant Lombardic lettering, as that of the rebuilt chancel, viz., *c.* 1320. Possibly, therefore, these are relics of a founder's tomb, broken up at the same time as the destruction of the cell, or at some later period of more prosaic sweeping and garnishing.

As will be seen in the illustration (*c*) on previous page, reduced from a tracing of a rubbing, one piece bears the greater part of the name [ꝑAR]GARETE·, and the other ꝺRE· (contraction for ꝺOSTRE) SEIG [ꝺEVR]. The inscription, as was usual at that time, was therefore in Norman French, and the first word may have related to the person or family commemorated, or have had reference to St. Margaret.

It will be noted that the letters of the latter strip are larger than those of the first, from which we may assume that the two strips were on different sides of the slab. The larger strip has part of a circle at its left end, which probably enclosed a cross or flower in brass or enamel. There are traces of red enamel adhering to the hatched ground of the letters.

Lettering of this date, engraved in the solid strip, is not often to be found, although common at a later date in the 14th century; these fragments are therefore of peculiar interest, and the Vicar deserves our thanks for placing them where they can readily be seen, in a small glass case, attached to one of the nave piers, where they rest in company with a chained book and other curiosities.

PHILIP MAINWARING JOHNSTON.

November, 1906.

II.

DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT POTTERY NEAR FARNHAM IN 1906.

DEAR MR. GIUSEPPI,—

You ask me to write a short account of the pottery find we made at Farnham. We first became aware that we were in the neighbourhood of an ancient inhabitation or camping place, by finding

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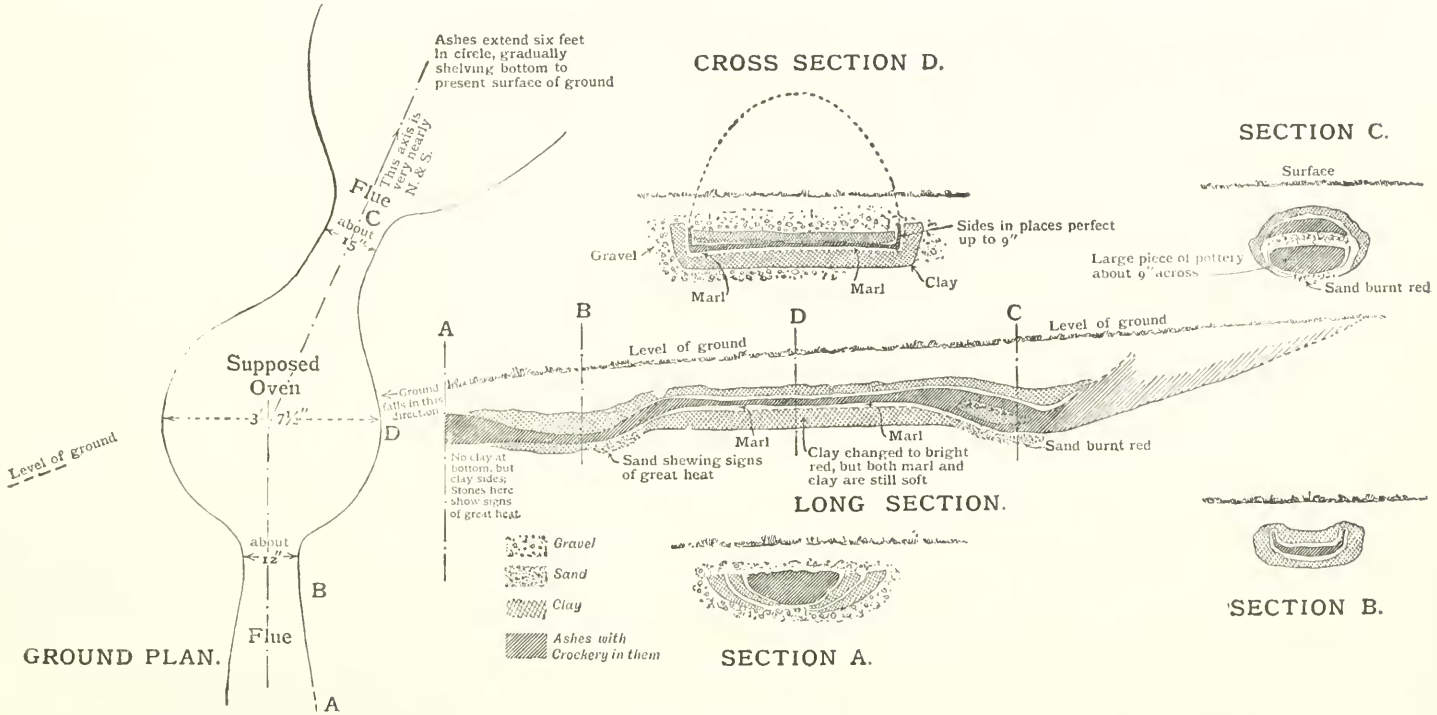
[1] Many bones were also disturbed. One skeleton was found with the skull upon the top of the ruined east wall.

in the surface ground we were moving pieces of pottery. I should go back to say that we were working in a field called Mavins, or Great Mavins, near Farnham, on the south edge of the large beds of gravel that extend from the manor house at the east on the Waverley road along the highest part of the ridge to almost the end of the Shorthheath Road, or Rodger's Lane. This ridge is practically flat, is raised about 200 ft. above the valley of the Wey on the north, and about 150 ft. above the valley of the Winterbourne on the south, and is from 1 mile to 1½ miles long, and the gravel beds in some parts 200 yards wide and from 2 ft. to 10 ft. deep. In almost all the pits flint implements of a large size and mostly rather coarse workmanship have been found. In the field opposite a cinerary urn had been found, and not far away the traces of an ancient fire, a hollow circular sinking lined with ashes. Also in the neighbourhood considerable quantities of fragmentary pottery. We were making a terrace on the top of the hill, or perhaps 3 ft. down the south slope, when we came on ashes gradually becoming more definite, and ending in a flue or trench covered in, lined with slag and a mixture of clay and lime (marked A on plan and section), and on trying the ground a few feet to north, at D, we found, directly under the turf, ashes, then clayey marl mixed with stones and what might be the remains of turf, and under these a thicker layer of ashes, with closely packed fragments of pottery. At this stage we thought it advisable to inform the British Museum and Surrey Archæological Society, and on the following Saturday the excavation was completed in the presence of Mr. Reginald Smith, of the British Museum, Mr. Malden, of the Surrey Archæological Society, and others interested in the subject, and proved to be a circular hole in the ground about 3 ft. 6 in. diameter, with perpendicular sides about 6 in. high, lined throughout with carefully puddled clay, the actual surface of the interior being lined with a mixture of lime and clay, all made almost smooth on the inside. At the north and south ends a flue entered this chamber, the flue at south being practically level and then ascending into the baking place, the flue from north dipping considerably and then ascending more rapidly into the chamber. The flue at north was divided into two, but as the support for this division was a large piece of pottery, it is not certain whether this was the original arrangement or an accident. The flue to the north spread out in a half-circle, strewn with ashes and pottery such as might have been expected if at the abandoning of the kiln all the rubbish used had been collected to fill up the hole.

The whole of the inside of the chamber was filled with large and small pieces of pottery packed tightly in, the spaces between being filled with wood ashes, and the surface all over was covered with the clay and lime mixture as before described, as if there had been a dome over the kiln which had been flattened down, and this substance was continuous over the whole thing without any aperture of any kind. I am informed by a potter that such rude kilns were in use on a larger scale in this part of the country until recent times, and that the dome was demolished between each baking. That is to say, that the pottery was placed on the floor of the kiln, charcoal built up round and

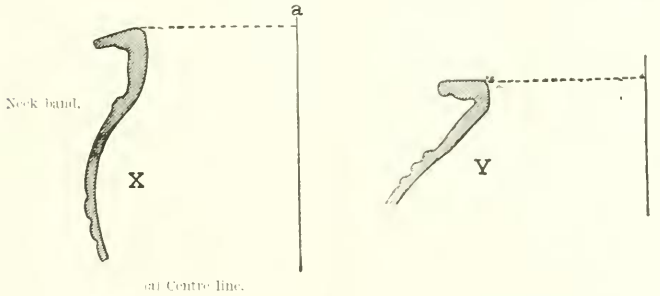


GROUND PLAN AND SECTIONS OF POTTER'S KILN FOUND NEAR FARNHAM IN 1906.

between it, and the whole covered with heather and clay and burnt, more fuel being fired in the flues.

One of the most curious things was some marks exactly like the marks of a hobnail boot on the clay that formed the top layer, and these marks were on the under side of the layer, or next to the chamber. The flue at the south end seemed by the red discoloration of the clay to have been lined twice.

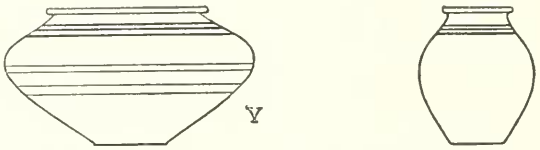
The pottery taken from this chamber and the flues and surroundings amounted to two or three bushels of fragments, and by careful washing, sorting and trying together we have been able to more or less piece together forty incomplete vases. It ranges in texture from the very finest washed and almost polished clay to the coarsest sand-faced, and in thickness from a teacup to ½ in. thick, and in size from 4 in. diameter to over 2 ft. A great deal of it is ornamented with criss-cross patterns made with a piece of notched bone, of which we have obtained more than thirty varieties. Some of the lattice pattern is made by smoothing the sand-surfaced pot while wet with a piece of stick or bone, so that the lines show polished on the rough background; this lining is also used as bands. Some of the pots have bands moulded of the section marked X. It is to be noted that there are a large number



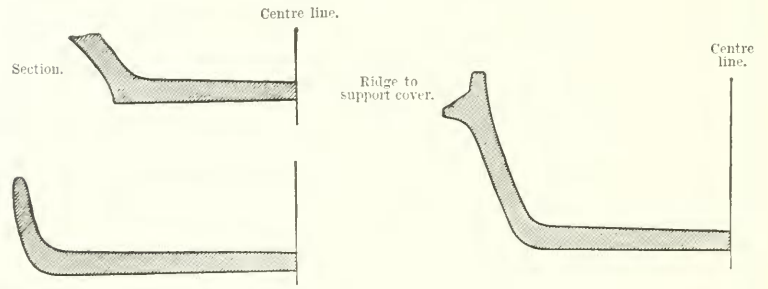
of pots of the type shown on section X, and that these have certain characteristics, a turned over lip, a) curved neck, a neck band (this is only absent in one instance), a curved shoulder, three or four moulded bands round body, and probably a taper lower body, and a flat bottom, and that they are almost similar to the large cinerary urn found on the south-east of Farnham Station, on Mr. Anderson's property, except that his urn has no moulded bands. This type of pot is always smooth on outside and very smooth at lip. We have a dozen large pieces of this type and innumerable small.

The other type has a ⊂ -shaped neck with about an inch of plain and then three to five bands with the ridges same width as valleys between, and that the outside of these vases was rough, except that some had bands about ½ in. broad smoothed about the middle of body.

These two types are distinct; there are no intermediate types between the two. I do not know whether this indicates separate periods of manufacture, or whether the types were kept distinct to mark

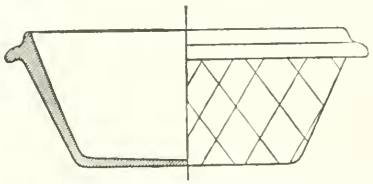


the separate uses, for cremations or for daily use. The bottoms of all the pots are flat; there is only one specimen of a rim bottom, and as this is of a biscuit colour clay I suppose it to be an importation.



Many bottoms are carefully moulded, and nearly all are carefully finished, showing that they were turned after the pot had been cut off the wheel.

There are numerous saucers and several pots that probably had covers.



BLACK WARE BOWL WITH BURNISHED LINES found near Guildhall, City (Brit. Mus.).

An illustration of a black ware bowl of similar section to these latter, which was found near the Guildhall, London, and is now in the British Museum, is here given by the kindness of Mr. Reginald Smith.

It is possible that these saucers were the covers of these vessels.

H. Falkner.

III.

DISCOVERIES AT LEIGH HILL, COBHAM.

The cutting of a carriage-drive on the Old Glebe Estate, east of Leigh Hill, has resulted in the discovery of several pits sunk in the gravel to a maximum depth of about 5 ft. from the turf, and generally circular in plan, with a diameter of about 8 ft. decreasing to about half at the base. In the filling have been found fragments of hand-made and wheel-made pottery, no doubt contemporary, the latter being evidently of Roman date. Only one perfect specimen, a plain hand-made vase of brownish clay with rounded base, has been unearthed, but many of the Roman specimens may be restored. Loom-weights and "pot-boilers," generally found on Early-British sites, were also recovered, but a full description must be reserved for the next volume of the *Collections*, as the site has not yet been exhaustively examined.

Reginald A. Smith.

IV.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT WALLINGTON.

Some recent discoveries at Wallington of prehistoric antiquities, which have already formed the subject of a communication to the Anthropological Institute,[1] are of such great local interest that it seems desirable to place the facts on permanent record in the pages of the *Surrey Archæological Collections*. As I am well acquainted with the neighbourhood, and have had the advantage of examining the site during the excavations, and also the objects themselves, I have, at the request of the Honorary Secretary, ventured to draw up the following brief report on the subject.

At a distance of nearly a mile and a-half to the south of Carshalton parish church there is a low hill which, although of no great altitude, and without any steep slope, is so situated as to command views over a considerable tract of country round it. It is known as Stag Field, and was so-named from the metal figure of a stag erected upon it by one of the Earls of Derby.

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[1] By N. F. Robarts (*Journal Anthropological Institute*, Vol. XXXV, pp. 387—397).

The important fact is, that the spot does really dominate a large tract of country, and one is not surprised to learn that traces of an enclosure of very early type, surrounded by defensive earthworks, have been found upon it.

The excavations which first brought these traces to light were made in connection with the building of the Southern Hospital, an institution of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The workmen employed in excavating a trench for drains accidentally cut through a mass of black earth containing bones and ancient pottery. Subsequent digging by the workmen, and also special excavations carried out under the supervision of Messrs. H. C. Collyer, of Beddington, and N. F. Robarts, revealed a good many traces of former habitation in the shape of antiquities, hearths, charred grain, and human bones, but it was found impracticable to trace the course of the earthworks to any great extent, and as the levelling influences of ploughing and rain-wash had long ago destroyed any indications on the surface, the form of the enclosure is a matter of uncertainty. Still, the site it occupied, and the numerous flint implements which have been found within and round it, are sufficient to indicate that it was as old as the Neolithic period.

In the bottom of the foss, about 6 ft. from the surface of the ground, the site of a hearth was found and uncovered without seriously disturbing its component parts. A mass of black earth largely mixed with charcoal occupied the bottom of the ditch, and at a spot near the hearth was a mass of charred grain, comprising wheat, rye, and good king henry. The grain had been reduced to a state of charcoal, and so had remained undecayed in the ground for centuries.

Amongst the antiquities found, in addition to the hearths, were several utensils employed in cooking. They comprised (1) perforated tiles measuring 12 in. × 8 in. × 1½ in., probably placed on the fire and used for baking cakes made of crushed grain; (2) corn-crushers made of gritty stone, and worn hollow by use; and (3) earthen vessels in which holes had been drilled probably for suspension over the fire.

One of the interesting pieces of pottery found was a small vessel of singular shape, and furnished with four pierced ears or handles. Its height is 4½ in., its diameter 2 in. It is too small perhaps for cooking, but may have served as a lamp in which fat or oil was burnt.

Another fragment of pottery of the greatest interest had once formed part of a Late Celtic urn or vessel of the type which Dr. Arthur Evans discovered in the cemetery at Aylesford, Kent, and which he subsequently described before the Society of Antiquaries of London.[1] The chief features are a pear-shaped body, tapering downwards to a short, thick pedestal which at the base spreads out again into a moderately large foot; fairly large mouth turned outwards at the rim; horizontal parallel lines running round the urn, some being incised and single, others double and producing the appearance of raised ridges (aptly termed cordons by Dr. Arthur Evans). The great importance of this species of pottery is, that it can be traced to a source outside of Britain.

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[1] *Archæologia*, Vol. 52, pp. 315—388.

Fragment of Late Celtic Urn of the Aylesford type.

Small Pottery Vessel (Lamp?).

ANCIENT POTTERY FOUND AT WALLINGTON, SURREY.

The discovery of pottery of the Aylesford type established for the first time the existence of an entirely new style of ancient British ceramic art. The urns are of much finer fabric than those usually attributed to the early Iron period, and far better, of course, than those of the Bronze Age. Some of them have really elegant forms and are well turned. The source of this type is believed to be northern Italy; but it is not quite clear whether the Aylesford examples are to be regarded as importations or imitations.

Pottery of this special character has been found in Essex as well as Kent, but hitherto, it is believed, no example has been recorded from Surrey.

Other objects, worthy of special mention, were a cake of copper of the regular Bronze Age type, a circular bronze buckle with a simple pin or tongue, clay spindle-whorl, and a small, flattened bead of amber.

We thus get a regular series of antiquities representing successive habitation of this place during the Neolithic Age, the Bronze Age, and the early Iron Age. Fragments of pottery of Romano-British characters were found on and near the surface of the ground.

It is interesting to note that some of the early Iron Age, or Late Celtic pottery found at Wallington closely resembles in colour and texture the pottery of the same period found at Jordan Hill, Weymouth, Dorset, where it was probably manufactured from the local Oxford Clay.

The suggestions that this point marks the site of Noviomagus, and also that the defenced settlement furnished the idea from which the name of Waleton, or Wallington, was given to the village not far off, are probably both merely fanciful and imaginative. The absence of Roman remains in sufficient abundance on the one hand, and the impossibility of reconciling actual distances with those given in the Roman itinerary on the other, show how extremely improbable is the first suggestion. The second theory, although of the plausible character which pleases the popular taste, unfortunately lacks anything of the nature of archæological corroboration. The Saxon village of Wallington was almost certainly on the old road which runs along the Wandle Valley more than a mile to the north, connecting the old Saxon villages of Croydon, Beddington, Wallington, Carshalton, Sutton, etc. Between the time of the habitation of the hill-top fortress or settlement at Stag Field, and the settlement of the Saxon villages in the Wandle Valley, there was a sharp, definite break in archæological sequence. The hill-fort belongs essentially to the prehistoric period; the Saxon villages to the beginning of the historic.

The illustrations given on the accompanying plate are reproduced from blocks courteously lent by the Anthropological Institute.

George Clinch.