

## NOTES.

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

---

**Cremation Trenches near Peaslake.**—At the edge of a sandpit at Burrows Cross, Peaslake, have been dug out by Mr. C. H. Grinling and Mr. S. E. Winbolt two long cremation trenches; a third, 90 feet away, was not investigated. The two dug were 20 feet long, 4 feet broad, and about 5 feet deep, and were arranged in the form of an L, the two limbs being separated by 3 feet. Except in places, the trenches were floored and walled with big sandstones, ironstones, and chertstones, all brought from a little distance. On the stones was a thick layer of charcoal and wood ash, and in parts of the trenches were two layers of stones and of charcoal. The stones and sand had been burnt red. At the W. end of one trench were found the remains of human bones not completely cremated, belonging, as Sir Arthur Keith reported, to a woman and a child of about 14. All the other bones had been entirely reduced to ashes. There was no fragment of pottery or other evidence of date. Though there are several possibilities, on the whole, on general but slight grounds, one would incline to a Late Keltic date, and connect the cremations with the people who made Holmbury Hill Camp.

S. E. WINBOLT.

**Saint Katherine's Church, Merstham. Restoration of the Chancel, 1931.**—During the restoration of the chancel an aumbry was discovered on the north side of the altar behind the Victorian tiling, as it was being removed from the east wall (see Plate XXIII). Except for two short lengths of squared stones at the north and south extremities, this wall was found to be built in very rough rubble, including fragments of the original thirteenth-century arcading.

The aumbry, which is 14 inches wide, 20 inches high and 6 inches deep, is rectangular and has deep grooves cut midway in the height

of the jambs, and in these grooves fragments of an oak shelf  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick still remained. The cill of the aumbry is 1 foot 6 inches from the floor and the distance from the north wall to the jamb is 1 foot 3 inches. The face of the stonework has been much hacked to obtain a key for the tiling, but there is no indication of any hinges or lock.

The Victorian tiled step has been removed, and beneath on the south side was found a strip of the original paving about 2 feet wide, extending from the east wall to the entry to the south chantry chapel. This paving is in small rectangular stones about 2 feet by 1 foot, with the longer dimension pointing north and south. The remainder of the floor had disappeared except for a small fragment in the north-east corner. The tops of two eighteenth-century vaults in red brick were uncovered, the crowns of the arches being about 2 inches above the level of the old floor which must have been removed before that date.

LL. E. WILLIAMS, A.R.I.B.A.

**Roman Burials near Farley Heath.**—Portions of five Roman burial urns and one small Samian bowl (see Plate XXIII) have been found in a garden on the edge of Farley Heath, Albury, and not far from the site of the reputed Roman town where Roman remains in large quantities have been found in past years.

The Samian bowl is complete and is marked with the potter's name. Of the other five, one is of a light buff colour and four of coarse blue grey pottery. They were all found within a few feet of each other. The Samian bowl is second century, but the buff coloured jug, or urn, with which it was found is said to be at least eighty years earlier. This jug has been broken and repaired in Roman times and has a curious patch of metal rivetted on to the outside in one place where there was a bad break.

The finds are the property of Mr. R. Stephenson of Foxholes, Farley Green, Albury, who has kindly lent the Samian bowl for exhibition in Guildford Museum and has also allowed members of the Society to make further investigations in his grounds.

O. M. HEATH.

**Inhumation Burials at Eashing.**—From 6th October to 19th October, 1931, seven human skeletons were found while a cutting was being made for the Godalming by-pass road at Eashing, about a quarter of a mile above Eashing bridge over the river Wey (see Plate XXIV). The site is on the top of a cliff on the south side of the river and about 55 feet above it. One burial was destroyed in digging, but the other six were as carefully as possible preserved,



AUMBRY, MERSTHAM CHURCH



SAMIAN BOWL FOUND AT FARLEY HEATH



THREE OF THE EASHING BURIALS

and the resident engineer, Mr. P. M. Otway, and Mr. T. H. Elliott gave every facility for examination.

- No. 1. Depth 2' 6". Skull, part of trunk and four leg bones laid out in one line. Orientation, about 20° S. of E., the head being at S.E. end. Posture of skull nearly vertical, propped by mould only: distinctly prognathous, all the front teeth preserved. Estimated length of skeleton, 5' 6".
- No. 2. Depth 2' 6". Remains of skeleton from skull to 4" below the knees, 4' 3": Estimated total length c. 5' 4". Orientation, 37° W. of S., the head being at S.W. end. Posture: extended on back. Thigh bones parallel with line of spinal column. Arms by sides, probably with hands (missing) on pelvis. Head slightly raised, but on mould only. A few pieces of charcoal were found over the skeleton. Distance from No. 1 was 7'.
- No. 3. Depth, 3' 6". Skull to knee-joints, length 3' 8": total estimated length, 5' 4". Posture: extended on back, with skull nearly completely reversed, i.e. face looking away from feet. Arms as in No. 2: no hands preserved. Orientation: 5° W. of S.: head to S. Distance from No. 2, 4' 9".
- No. 4. Depth, 2' 6". Head to half-way down the femur, length 3' 6". Estimated total length, 5' 2". Posture: extended on back, but slightly turned on to right side, as also the head. The position of thighs, at an angle of 80° to a line drawn right to left through the pelvis, seemed to indicate that the legs were crossed. Arms missing. Orientation, 1° E. of S., head to S. Distance from No. 3, 5' 9".
- No. 5. Distance from No. 4, 9' 3".
- No. 6. Depth, 2' 6". A small head and part of trunk only, length 1' 8"; probably a small woman. Posture: extended on front. The skull was found face downwards. Legs missing: head turned slightly right. Orientation, 30° E. of S., head S.E. At 1½' S.E. of the head, half a bronze hair-pin of Roman type was found, its small spherical head ornamented like a "melon" bead. Distance from No. 5, 20' 8".

Slightly south of No. 6 were some of the bones and teeth of a cow, two dog's teeth, and a few pieces of charcoal. These appear to be later intrusions.

All the burials were in the top stratum of brown humus sand, or just reaching into the yellower sand below it. There was no sign of cist, covering stones or tiles, or coffin (wood or nails), or of any garment used as shroud. The grave in each case was simply a hole dug in the sand. There were no indications that a tumulus had covered the burials. No ornaments or grave furniture of any kind, except the bronze pin with No. 6.

In various places were found in the soil—not with the skeletons—fragments of pottery, thirteen of Romano-British, one only of definitely Roman type. The latter was wheel-made, grey on the outsides but red in the body and on the inside—of softish sandy material. The Romano-British fragments were nearly all of red-brown material, with blackish exterior; some are gritted with biggish flint particles, others with pounded iron slag, as at Saxonbury. One is a portion of a flat base, clumsily turned up with the finger on the outside. Another shows ornament of short impressed lines (less than ⅙" long) ⅙" apart. Beyond this there were frag-



ments of charcoal and a piece of sandstone with silica formed on the surface under heat. The pottery, which might well have been made by native Britons during the Roman period, is in agreement with the bronze pin, and indicates Romano-British burials.

There was nothing to show whether the interments took place together or at different times. The varying depths—2' 6", 3' 6" and 5'—and orientation might depend upon the ideas of different digging parties, and are hardly conclusive against simultaneous interments. The irregular character of the interments—face downwards, reversed skull, and four leg bones arranged in one line—seems to indicate simultaneous burial after the corpses had lain exposed and were reduced to skeletons; and so does the unceremonious manner of interment without grave furniture. The buried people were, apparently, of a small-statured race: the tallest two of the four were only, according to Sir Arthur Keith, 5' 6" and 5' 7" in height. (The estimate made above was, of course, only a rough one.) Sir Arthur Keith kindly examined the human remains, the bones of which were most brittle. He reports (11th February 1932): "From the form of skull, face and limb bones—and also the state of the bones, I have come to the conclusion that they are not of Saxon date—not mediæval, and almost certainly of the period of Roman occupation." There were two women, one of about 18–20 years, the other of about 30, of medium stature; and three men Romano-British in type. Of these one was 45–50 years of age, with large head, robust face, strong limb-bones, and about 5' 7" in height. Another, over 40 years of age, had jaws showing reduced development seen in people eating well-cooked food. A third was a strongly built man of about 5' 6" in height.

S. E. WINBOLT.

**The Domesday Mill at Betchworth.**—Domesday Book, in the passage which refers to the Manor of East Betchworth, states that there was a mill there, but, of course, says nothing of its situation (D.B., 35 b, col. ii). Now Wonham Mill on the eastern border of Betchworth parish is certainly ancient, but I do not think it is the mill mentioned in Domesday. Firstly, because its name implies that it belonged originally to the Manor of Wonham, of which the earliest record is in 1199.<sup>1</sup> Secondly, because from 1328<sup>2</sup> to 1539 Wonham Mill was in the possession of Reigate Priory.<sup>3</sup> The question therefore arises, is there evidence of the existence of another mill at Betchworth which may be the Manorial Mill alluded

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Surrey*, Vol. III, p. 170. <sup>2</sup> Calendar Patent Rolls, 1327–1330, p. 326.

<sup>3</sup> *Valer Ecclesiasticus* (edition of 1814), Vol. II, p. 67.

to in Domesday? There is. An Account Roll of the Reeve of Betchworth for 1299-1300 shows that at that time the Manor had a mill of its own, though again no indication is given of its whereabouts. The first light which is thrown on this subject occurs in a Survey of the Manor of East Betchworth made in 1633-4,<sup>1</sup> which says,

"There is a little waste adjoining to Betchworth River near Betchworth Street above Betchworth Bridge, called the Mill Bay, wherein tenants and inhabitants of Betchworth have, time out of the mind of man, had common pasture for their cattle and hogs" [p. 18 of the English translation of the Survey made in 1634].

The "little waste" remains though its old name has long been forgotten and the rights of commonage upon it have ceased. Moreover at the northern end of it just where "the Betchworth River" (commonly called the Mole) approaches nearest to the Church there are the remains of an old mill cut. This cut lies on the right bank of the stream at a short distance from it: it looks like rather a wide ditch and is known locally as "the sheep-wash." The bottom of it is hard (as I have proved by sounding), and old inhabitants, who have seen it dry in former years, tell me it is made of brick. The presence of this mill cut in a place which was known in the seventeenth century as "the Mill Bay" is significant, but another passage in the Survey of 1633-4 puts the matter beyond doubt.

"Richard Arnold holds a messuage with barn, stable, garden and orchard, containing one acre of land more or less, situate in Betchworth Street, and the aforesaid orchard abuts on the north on the lane leading from Betchworth Street to More Place, and on the east on the stream or dam of a water-mill formerly built on that spot" [*super fluvium seu stagnum quondam molendini aquatici ibidem edificati*, Survey, folio 3].

From the fact that Richard Arnold's tenement stood (and stands) in the angle formed by the roads leading from Betchworth to More Place and Leigh its position is quite unmistakable. His orchard extended eastward downhill to the river and at the end of it, where a small brook enters the Mole from the north, was the mill, precisely where the mill cut can still be seen. From the way in which the mill is referred to in the above extract it was already—three hundred years ago—a relic of the past. What reasons are there for supposing it was the Domesday Mill? There is only one that I know of, but that is a strong one—its situation. Readers of Professor F. W. Maitland's *Domesday Book and Beyond* will be familiar with the "nucleated vill." Betchworth in the eleventh

<sup>1</sup> This Survey is in three recensions. 1. The original Latin. 2. An English translation of the same date. 3. A later copy made, I imagine, in the early nineteenth century.

The three recensions are not identical but supplement one another.

century was such a vill, that is, a fairly compact cluster of houses in the neighbourhood of the Manor House and the Church. Whoever examines the site will realize at once how close it was to the Manor House and the centre of the village and within easy reach of the common field. If anyone rejects this evidence as inconclusive I think the burden rests on him to suggest another and a more probable site for the Manorial Mill. Unless mills were (like Falstaff's reasons) "as plentiful as blackberries" in old Betchworth, it seems to me that here, and not elsewhere, was the site of the Domesday Mill.

E. H. KENNEDY.

**Reigate—Old Bricks.**—In the course of demolishing two old cottages that stood at the corner of Slipshoe Street and London Road, Reigate, for the purpose of street widening, a small quantity of bricks of unusual size and shape has been discovered, January 1932. The diagram below shows two examples of average dimensions—Figs. 1 and 2. They had evidently been taken from

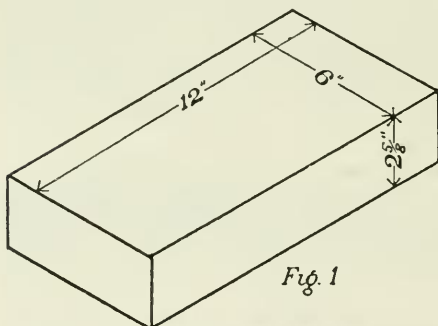


Fig. 1

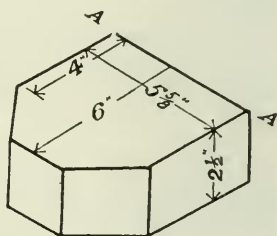


Fig. 2.

an older building and re-used simply as material for the walls of the cottages without regard to their original purpose. In colour they are a light brick red, and are made of pure clay and kiln baked. In making the larger sort the clay was thrown into a rectangular mould on the bench and struck off; one showing signs of thumb and finger marks was handled in a wet state. The shaped bricks (Fig. 2) were formed in a shaped mould. Frogs are wanting. There is no indication that the bricks were oven bricks, or that the shaped ones were intended for window mullions, though possibly a frame or glass could be fixed at AA, but these may have been intended for copings. The original provenance of the bricks is unknown. The cottages were of uncertain date, though probably not less than two hundred years old.



Lloyd's *History of English Brickwork* (page 89) cites only two instances of bricks approximating to the abnormal dimensions of Fig. 1, both of which are found at Little Coggeshall Abbey, Essex, and dated c. 1200 and 1220. The Reigate specimens may thus be mediæval. Size, however, as that authority is careful to point out, is not by itself a safe guide to the age of a brick.

W. HOOPER.

**Notes on Mediæval Stone vaulted Crypt at Wallington.**—I visited this Crypt in company with the late Mrs. Birch, to whom the scanty antiquities of Wallington owe so much, in the autumn of 1923, and made the accompanying drawings (see pages 124–5).

The house above ground is perfectly modern and bears no relation to the crypt, and I can find no documentary evidence as to who built the crypt, the date, or the purpose for which it was made.

It is very solidly and skilfully constructed, with thick walls and nicely fitted ashlar dressings of firestone for ribs, circular stair, doorway, and aumbry in the East wall—the crypt is correctly orientated, which suggests that it *may* have been the undercroft of a domestic chapel attached to a house of some importance: but all trace of any such superstructure has disappeared time out of mind. Inquiries on the spot proved fruitless.

The drawings indicate the nature of the construction. The filling or web from rib to rib of the vaulting is of chalk, lightly plastered; the walls are of rubble—hard chalk and firestone, partially plastered, the quoins being largely of neatly wrought firestone blocks. The stone ribs have a sharp hollow moulding.

There are eleven or twelve steep steps to the ground floor, mostly having a rise of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

In the East wall are traces of a blocked window, and lower in the wall a small plain rebated aumbry, with hinge-hooks for a door.

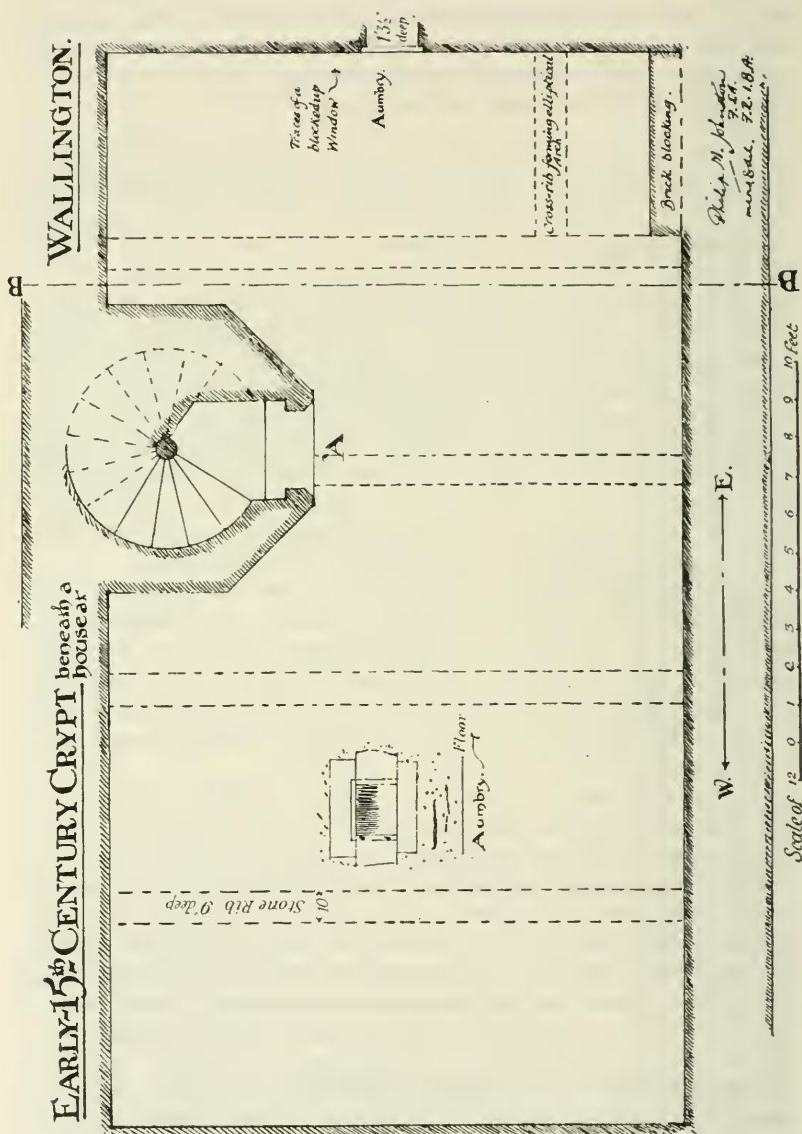
The floor is of stamped chalk.

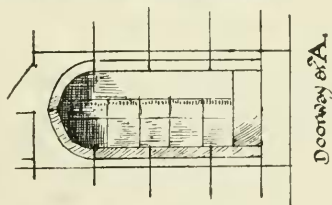
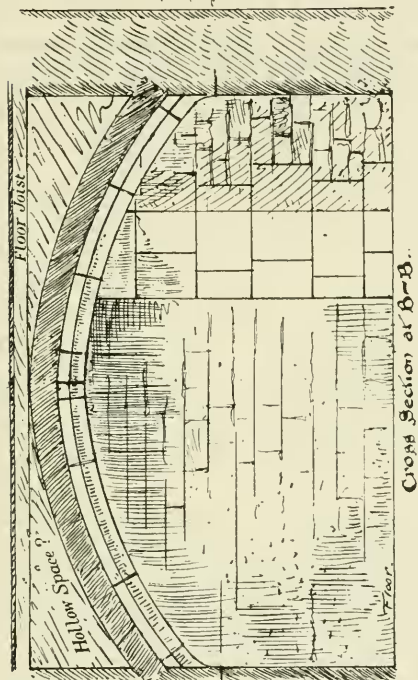
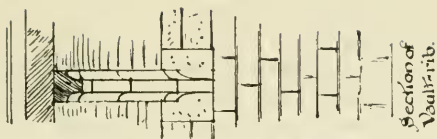
From the architectural evidence I should put the date of erection early in the fifteenth century.

The subtle curve of the 4-centred arched ribs deserves notice, as also the elliptical cross-rib in the eastern bay—apparently designed to give additional height for an opening of some sort.

PHILIP M. JOHNSTON, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

**Restoration Work in Surrey Churches.**—Mr. P. M. Johnston reports that during the last two or three years various works of restoration have been carried out under his supervision at Caterham, Compton, Coulsdon, Stoke d'Abernon and St. Mary's, Guildford, in which various interesting discoveries have been made and





which it is hoped to put on record in a future volume. Also the long-neglected old Church Tower of Ewell is being repaired under his advice on behalf of the Bishop of Guildford's Advisory Committee ; and at the request of the same body, he has been joined with Mr. Arthur Stedman, F.R.I.B.A., of Farnham, in the restoration of Ewhurst Church, where many valuable and almost unsuspected mediæval features have been brought to light. Further discoveries have also been made in Thursley Church ; and at Beddington it has now been decided to bring down the beautiful Roman lead coffin from an upstairs choir vestry to be preserved in a suitably designed oak enclosure in the church.