

Mosaic

ALAN GILBERT

IT IS with deep regret that we have to record the sudden death of Alan Gilbert, Honorary Secretary of the Surrey Archaeological Society. Besides his hard work for his county society, he also directed excavations for the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. Dennis Turner, the Editor of the S.A.S. *Bulletin*, has taken over as Acting Secretary.

CROYDON DIGS

THE magnitude of redevelopment taking place has compelled Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society to concentrate on Old Town. Three trenches were dug opposite the Parish Church in 1968/9, the nearest one producing Saxon ware and Roman tiles; the next contained 13th century ware above bedrock, while in the furthest there were a few medieval sherds and a small well-constructed pit lined with greensand and chalk blocks, with re-used roof tile spacers, probably a cold store.

Besides some medieval sherds, evidence of Overton's brewery and two pairs of mill-stones from Croydon Steam Mill were found during observation of the site between Church Street and Church Road. Elsewhere trial trenches indicate that the Archbishop's Palace Estate blocked subsequent development to S. and S.E. of the Church. It is hoped to establish the extent of Saxon and medieval Croydon.

KENTISH ARCHAEOLOGY

AT THE A.G.M. of the Kent Archaeological Research Groups' Council on 1st November, 1969, it was decided to change the title of the organisation to the equally descriptive, but shorter, Council for Kentish Archaeology. Within five years the K.A.R.G.C. has achieved many of its original aims, among them the development of a county-wide scheme for dealing with archaeological emergencies, the introduction of a Young Archaeologist Award scheme, and the supply of surveying and detection equipment for use by constituent groups, not forgetting of course the *Kent Archaeological Review*.

Today the C.K.A. can view with some satisfaction a situation where most of the active field archaeology in Kent is undertaken by member groups; where there is an en-

thusiastic response by diggers from all over the county when an emergency arises and where there is every sign that the quality of excavation and reporting throughout the county will soon bear comparison with the highest professional standards.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LONDON'S youngest archaeological society is probably that formed recently at Kingston upon Thames. The Society was founded early in 1969 by a group of volunteers who, during the last two or three years, have been helping Kingston upon Thames Museum to excavate a number of sites threatened by redevelopment.

Documentary records indicate that Kingston was of considerable importance in Saxon and medieval times. Archaeological investigations have produced evidence of occupation from the Neolithic period onwards and a recent excavation off Eden Street uncovered a medieval pottery kiln.

Following a public meeting in July the Society rapidly increased in size and is now approaching a membership of 90. Besides excavating threatened sites, the Society aims to record buildings of interest within the borough and has already planned and photographed two listed buildings now destroyed—Coombe Hill Farmhouse and Tolworth Court Farm barn. The Society holds monthly meetings and issues a bulletin periodically. All enquiries to L. E. Gent, 33 Kenley Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

PONTES?

THE first archaeological evidence for the possible site of the Roman posting station of *Pontes* has been uncovered on a redevelopment site in the High Street at Staines. The site was discovered by Maureen Rendell of Egham Museum while undertaking fieldwork in the area on behalf of London Museum. She is now directing an emergency excavation (see below) with the co-operation of the contractors, Gee and Company and the owners, Barclays Bank.

To date the work has revealed a section of a Roman road, a building complex and nearly half a ton of occupational debris, ranging from the 1st to the late 4th century.

Work on the site at Staines

