

Extracts from the Bulletins of 1970 (Nos. 61-72)

February (No.62)

Wheels from the Surrey Iron Railway found at Mitcham (TQ273678)

Last October, whilst removing gravel and silt from the bed of the so-called 'paper mill cut' near its confluence with the River Wandle in the Water-meads, Mitcham, Mr. Knight, an employee of the National Trust discovered a cast iron wheel which with reasonable certainty can be identified as being from a Surrey Iron Railway waggon.

The wheel is 32 inches in diameter, with 9 flat spokes, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, tapering from $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. in width at the hub to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the rim. The hub tapers, and resembles that of a cart. The rim is $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in breadth, L-shaped in section, and lacks the flange of the modern railway wheel. From these dimensions it will be seen that the wheel corresponds very closely to those of the Surrey Iron Railway described by Thomas Tredgold in *A Practical Treatise on Rail-roads and Carriages* (2nd. edition, 1835), quoted by Charles E. Lee in his paper to the Newcomen Society in 1940.

This unique relic has been very kindly loaned by the National Trust to the Museum at Castle Arch, where it will be displayed with other items from the Railway.

A second, incomplete, wheel lacking part of its rim remains in possession of the National Trust and is kept in the old snuff mill in Morden Hall Park. It was measured and photographed there during the summer by our late Secretary, Alan Gilbert, and J. Foster Petree, Esq., of the Newcomen Society.

A local tradition held that buildings near the Grove flour mills at Mitcham were used as workshops in the days of the Surrey Iron Railway, and it is said that after the railway ceased a number of waggon wheels were used to reinforce the banks of the Wandle in the vicinity of the mills. It is likely, therefore, that further wheels await discovery.

(E. N. Montague).

Carshalton: Excavations at Milner Place (TQ 289646)

In 1969 the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society excavated, under the direction of the late Mr. A. S. Gilbert, on the site of old cottages at Milner Place, Carshalton High Street. Beneath the early 19th century foundations remains of tumbled chalk mud walls were found with tumble and wall apparently inextricably puddled. A series of rectangular, mid-18th century pits were cleared and a carefully built, stone-lined cess pit discovered.

The contents of the pits should be closely datable and will provide usefully

publishable groups of post-medieval material. A member of the staff of Birmingham University has offered to study the bone material from the pits which should show evidence of changes brought about by selective breeding.

(D. J. Turner).

Wandsworth: Excavations at Stimsons Buildings (TQ 746256)

Excavation by the Wandsworth Historical Society has been continuing (see *Bulletin*, 58). The early Tudor bank of the Wandle has been uncovered and recorded and some interesting examples of pottery were recovered including about two-thirds of a late 15th century jug decorated with a branching pattern in white slip. Lipped dishes, stoneware, leather shoes and glazed floor-tiles were among the many other things dug up. The excavation of the river bank has now been completed.

(*News Sheet*, Wandsworth H. S., 1969/6).

Croydon: Charles Street Excavation

Members of the Archaeological Section of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society have been excavating at weekends on the sites of 7, 9 and 11, Church Road, Croydon (backing on to Charles Street) since 20th September. It was part of the plan to dig trial trenches whenever the opportunity occurs, to try to establish the extent of Saxon and Medieval Croydon.

Two trenches, each 15 feet \times 4 feet were dug, but no evidence of occupation earlier than Victorian times was found. However worked and fire-cracked flints (pot boilers) were found in the layer above the river gravel. One fine, steep-nosed scraper, probably Upper Paleolithic to judge from the fine pressure-flaking, was found, also a much-corroded halfpenny of George III, dated 1774, and a Gibraltar token of 1810. Evidence of the work of the Croydon pipe-makers Corney and Hensher was also recovered in fragments of clay pipes.

Two plans of Croydon Palace, dated 1797 and 1833, show the area as 'Little Meadow', and the absence of any pottery etc. suggests it must have formed part of the original estate.

(Lilian Thornhill in C.N.H.S.S. *Bulletin* 16).

March (No. 63)

Mayford: Lime Kiln at Smart's Heath (SU 982557)

In May 1969, the Mayford History Society excavated a lime kiln built into the hedgebank between Smart's Heath and land which at the time when the kiln was in use would have belonged to Ellis Farm (subsequently Ellis Place and now Crastock Manor).

It is not possible to determine the original depth of the kiln as the roof and upper levels of the walls have disappeared, but the remaining two-course brick walls are intact to a depth of four feet in some places, forming an elliptical kiln 7 ft. 7 in. across at the widest point and 8 ft. 6 in. from the interior end of the feed tunnel to the far wall of the kiln. At the base of the vertical walls a horizontal ledge one foot wide and one brick deep encircles the kiln; below this is another ledge of the same dimensions, and below this again a sloping ledge drops away in the centre of the kiln to an earth floor containing ash.

At the level of the upper ledge a brick feed tunnel 1 ft. 10 in. wide and 3 ft. 3 in. deep from the apex of the arch to the first ledge, leads through the hedgebank to the base of the ditch on the Heath side of the bank, where wood and furze for firing is plentiful.

The internal surfaces of the kiln are covered with a hard green glass-like glaze; the ledges and the feed tunnel are, however, free of glaze, presumably because they were not in contact with the burning lime. Water for slaking the lime could have been obtained either from a pond a few yards away on the Heath or from a three foot wide drainage ditch nearby. Carts bringing the raw chalk could have reached the kiln by a track, now overgrown, which ran right past the kiln, alongside the hedgebank, and the Ellis farm buildings could be reached by a path across the fields, crossing the Crastock stream by a brick-built humped bridge.

The kiln probably went out of use around the time of the 1914-18 War, as various local residents remember playing in the derelict kiln just after the war.

(Miss N. Cox).

April (No. 64)

Dorking: 18th Century Pottery Site (TQ 167495)

In June, 1969 it was reported that rebuilding work at the rear of Woolworth's in Dorking High Street had uncovered a pit containing three pots. On visiting the site, one of the three pots was found to be an undoubted waster and the other two possible wasters, but the pit had been concreted over by the contractors, who did not reach its base. Remains of another pit containing much broken pottery of similar character was however seen nearby. A fair quantity of this was recovered and is now in Guildford Museum together with the three pots, which were given by Messrs. Woolworth. Two of them are skillets with projecting handles.

The chief items of interest are parts of two brown-glazed dishes with yellow slip decoration in metropolitan style bearing the date 173-(last figure missing), but nearly all the pottery is undecorated. The fabric is red with varying shades of brown glaze often showing distinct iron flecks. The forms include large storage vessels and pans, wide-mouthed cups with horizontal

looped handles; jugs, chicken feeders, platters etc. It is proposed to illustrate some of this pottery in a note in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections*.

(F. W. Holling).

Witley: Iron Furnace in Witley Park.

Evidence has been found by the writer for an iron furnace in Witley Park which is not recorded in Straker's *Wealden Iron*. A reference dated 1782, quoted by Mr. B. C. Worssam in his paper on 'Iron Ore Workings in the Western Weald' (*Proc. Geol. Assoc.* 75 (1964), 540), speaks of iron smelting in the park at that date. After finding furnace slag in the Wareham stream, which crosses A. 286 not far south of Brook, a visit was paid to Wareham Farm at the above NGR. A large bank which is clearly the former dam divides the garden and extends to the stream which bounds it on the north side. On old Ordnance Survey maps a track is shown following the top of this bank and crossing the stream by a footbridge to the north bank which is much higher than the south side. There is now no trace of this bridge, but a few yards east of where it crossed, the north bank is cut back to form a small platform area which may possibly have been a furnace site although there is nothing to be seen on the ground surface. No slag was seen in the stream west of the dam. The site has been reported to the Wealden Iron Research Group.

(F. W. Holling).

May (No. 65)

Fire Insurance and Local History

One source of local history usually totally ignored by local historians is the records of the old fire insurance companies.

Fire insurance in this country started soon after the Great Fire of London, and, although at first confined to the Metropolis, by the early part of the 18th century companies were insuring property all over Surrey. Most dwellings were at some time insured with one company or another. The problem often is to tell which. Original policies sometimes turn up among deeds and these detail the property at length. Some houses still retain the fire marks put up to identify insured property, these indicate the company with whom the house was insured and, on older marks, the policy number. This makes the research much easier.

The records of the Sun, the Hand-In-Hand, and the London Assurance Companies have been deposited with the Guildhall Library, Basinghall Street, E.C.2. These muniments have a great value for local historians and genealogists. Policies were issued for a period of seven years. When issued or renewed an entry was made in a register. It is these registers which form the basis of the records. From then it is often possible to trace the history of a property, giving the size, building material (brick, timber, thatch, etc.),

value, owners, and occupiers, over a period of a hundred years or more. The first entry is often marked 'newly erected' or 'unfinished', this helps considerably in dating buildings. Changes in ownership and additions to the property can be traced. Moreover, as there were no formal addresses at that time, the situation of the property was often given at length. For instance one house in East Molesey is described as 'abutting on the east on the San Ale-House', from this the position of an inn which has entirely disappeared, and which is not even mentioned in the parochial records, can be defined exactly.

Unfortunately these records are very imperfectly indexed. The numerical indices are good, but for this, of course, one must have prior knowledge of the policy number: and there are some nominal and topographical indices for later years. The Surrey Archaeological Society would be performing a useful function by organising the indexing of all Surrey entries in these registers, either professionally or by voluntary labour.

(R. G. M. Baker).

Carshalton/Wallington: Worked flint from Little Woodcote

A large collection of worked flints, from an area a few hundred yards across, have been gathered by Mr. Robert Stanbridge of Wallington and his brother David. They are being studied by Mr. E. E. Harrison and will be the subject of a detailed report in the *Collections* in due course.

The remarkable collection appears to cover a long period of occupation. There is one probable mesolithic tranchet axe and a possible second; several fragments of polished axes from the neolithic period and a number of barbed-and-tanged arrowheads from the late neolithic or early bronze age. One striking aspect of the collection is the large average size of the implements which does not seem to arise from selective collecting because small ones are also included. The majority of the implements have cortex remaining.

Certain forms are common—thick scrapers with very steep flaking at the end and with plenty of cortex remaining. There is also a characteristic waisted scraper form, one example of which is made from the cutting edge of a polished axe. This gives an interesting indication that the collection is probably late in date.

(E. E. Harrison and D. J. Turner).

June (No. 66)

Banstead: Clay Tobacco Pipes (TQ 269599 to TJ 272599)

A profusion of fragments of pipes from the Croydon maker, Robert Corney, High Street, have been turned up at Woodmansterne Street from both topsoil and deeper digging, during part of the recent gas-pipe excavation. Far

fewer are some by Henshaw of Woodside, with his name on the stems, but none with bowls or portions of bowls attached so that spur marks or bowl designs could be checked.

Bowl designs found here (not necessarily from either maker) are R.A.O.B. (Atkinson & Oswald, London Clay Tobacco Pipes, *Arch. J.* (1969) xiii 3,) but with no spurs, masonic (*op. cit.* xiii 6), heart in hand (*op. cit.* xiii 8), but with hour-glass instead of anchor, giraffe and tree (*op. cit.* vii 44), and parts of Prince of Wales feathers. One type which the writer has not seen elsewhere or described is both bowl and stem decorated with numerous knobbly protuberances, but with no clue to maker.

One stem marked CORK on both sides might be from a typemould supplied to certain makers (*vide op. cit.* p. 79) or dropped by an itinerant Irish labourer. None of the above products are among the pipes found in the writer's garden, near the Banstead—Woodmansterne border, so it seems that the Croydon trade with the other makers common to Woodmansterne did not extend from there westwards

(E. A. Baxter).

Dorking: Stane Street (TQ 164488)

The exact course of Stane Street through Dorking is uncertain. Margary indicates two possible routes (Roman Ways in the Weald, p. 69), but quotes the exposure of an 18 foot wide road a few inches under the surface by Tower Hill (TQ 167483). An old road of flint and pebbles was exposed 4 ft. 6 in. beneath the surface opposite No. 28 Horsham Road (TQ 164488) on the west side and again in a garden of a house where the present bus garage stands (TQ 163489).

Excavations for a storm drain along Horsham Road, Dorking, in 1968, produced further evidence that Stane Street followed Horsham Road. A trench approximately followed the line of a metalled road about 4 feet beneath the surface of the present road. This metalling contained pieces of iron slag. Where visible the road was cut through by both walls of the trench, exposing a section 7 to 10 inches thick. The road was traced for about 300 yards from opposite St. Paul's Road to Hampstead Road (TQ 163489 to 165486). Although no firm dating evidence was obtained for the Roman period, the considerable distance between the two road surfaces implies a corresponding large chronological separation.

(G. P. Moss and R. A. Shettle).

Mitcham: Excavation at Upper Green (TQ 278689)

The proposed demolition of an 18th century building at 29 Upper (or Fair) Green, Mitcham, until recently the shop of Messrs. P. Gutteridge & Son, provided an opportunity last summer for exploratory excavation by Merton Historical Society. Since the site is located at the centre of the former

village and at the junction of the old highways, it was hoped that evidence of pre-Conquest settlement would be forthcoming.

Waste flakes and blades of flint, possibly of Mesolithic origin, were the earliest artifacts found and Romano-British occupation was indicated by a few sherds of dark grey coarse ware of the late 2nd century, but nothing has been recognised from the Saxon period.

The medieval assemblage found in a 13th-14th century refuse pit included several hundred sherds of undecorated dark grey cooking pots and coarse-textured pinkish-buff unglazed ware from a round-bellied pitcher with an off-set pricked strap handle, also glazed and unglazed sherds from pitchers and jugs of off-white sandy ware, food animal bones, a small bronze needle and various ferrous objects.

No remains of any structure of medieval or early post-medieval date were found although it is known from documentary evidence that at least one substantial house of the late 15th or early 16th century stood within a hundred yards of the site.

Building and occupation debris of the late 17th or early 18th century was found, including, in a refuse pit, an interesting collection of what could have been sick-room objects; chamber pots, a set of three matching glazed earthenware bowls, plates and dishes, clay pipes, and an unusual group of nine unbroken and several broken glass medicine bottles and vials of various kinds. The site is shortly to be redeveloped and will be kept under observation.

(E. N. Montague).

July (No. 67)

Chaldon: Acheulian handaxe (TQ 325552)

An Acheulian handaxe of the Palaeolithic period was found about ten years ago by Mr. G. Devereux, The Heath, Chaldon. It was reported to the Bourne Society in November, 1969, and was exhibited at their Annual General Meeting in February, 1970. This is the second Palaeolithic implement to be recorded in the area covered by the Bourne Society.

(Bourne Society *Bulletin*, 60).

Leatherhead: Leaf-shaped arrowhead (TQ 160570)

A leaf-shaped arrowhead of brown translucent flint, 5.3 cms. long by 3.1 cms. wide, has been found by Mr. K. Pankhurst on land now used as allotments. The soil at the find spot is light and sandy with flints, overlying clay.

The arrowhead remains with the finder.

(D. J. Turner).

Lower Kingswood; Excavation at Rookery Farm (TQ 234537-TQ 244541)

During the summer of 1969 an area of a small dry coombe at Lower Kingswood was cleared by the Banstead Urban District Council, immediately south-east of a position where an Acheulian floor was discovered in 1959. (See Leatherhead and Dist. L.H.S. *Proceedings*, II, 4, (1960).

Fieldwork carried out in the disturbed area produced a small but diverse collection of flint implements and material of several periods. On the basis of this evidence, permission was obtained to investigate the locality and excavation proceeded in September, continuing on weekends, until March, 1970.

A number of trenches and soundings were put down in an attempt to trace a knapping-floor and also to determine the ecological sequence, but the results have so far proved rather negligible, with only a few primary flakes occurring in section. However a fossil layer containing erratics and patinated frost-shattered flints (an indicative feature of Pleistocene activity) was revealed above the natural clay-with-flints at a similar depth to that at which the original knapping-floor was located; samples from this horizon are at present under analysis.

In a field adjacent to the site, double-ploughing has recently brought to the surface a number of pointed and ovate hand-axes with a white patina. These latest finds are similar to the assemblage of hand-axes recovered from the original floor. The majority of hand-axes found recently, and other groups from the surrounding countryside, are characteristic of the Late Middle Acheulian industries which occur in abundance throughout the Thames Valley, datable to the Hoxnian and Gipping Interglacials.

(F. F. Pemberton).

August (No. 68)

Surrey Wills

Probate Records of the Commissary Court of the Bishop of Winchester and of the Court of the Archdeacon of Surrey have recently been transferred from the Principal Probate Registry at Somerset House to the Greater London Record Office at the County Hall, London, S.E.1. The records may now be consulted in the Search Room (Room B.21) there, Mondays to Fridays, from 9.45 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. and, by appointment only, on Saturday mornings from 9.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., provided advance notice is given of the document required for study (telephone: 01-633 5000, extension 6851 or 7808).

The following summary of the principal classes of records transferred, with their covering dates, may be helpful to readers. Gaps in series have not been noted, but these can be ascertained from the Record Office.

Commissary Court of the Bishop of Winchester in Surrey
The Bishop of Winchester appointed a Commissary to grant probate of wills in the county of Surrey.

Registered wills, 1674-1857. 8 vols.
Original wills, 1663-1857. 17 boxes.
Original administrations, 1674-1858. 16 boxes
Probate and administration act books, 1662-1858. 15 vols.
Calendars of wills and administrations, 1662-1671, 1687-1704, 1727-30.
4 vols. (calendars for other dates between 1672 and 1858 are annexed to the probate and administration act books noted above).

Court of the Archdeacon of Surrey

The probate jurisdiction of this court covered the whole of Surrey, apart from the Peculiars, but its powers were inhibited, in theory, although apparently not always in practice, for certain periods during each year. It had no power to grant administrations. For a useful short account of the Court of the Archdeacon the reader is referred to the Introduction to *Surrey Wills*, number XVII of the Surrey Record Society's publications, December 1922.

Registered wills, 1480-1821. 33 vols.
Original wills, 1534-1857. 89 boxes.
Probate act books, 1674-1858. 7 vols.
Calendars of registered and unregistered wills, up to 1750. 10 vols.
(calendars of wills, 1751-1858, are annexed to the probate act books noted above).

Non-probate Records of both the Commissary Court and the Court of the Archdeacon are also in the Greater London Record Office, having been transferred there by the Registrar of the Diocese of Guildford.

The following are the principal classes of records transferred (gaps in series have not been noted):

Visitation books, 1667-1874, and other visitation records.
Glebe terriers, c. 1602-1902. c. 75 items.
Muniment books, 1674-1927.
Dissenters' meeting houses registration, 1741-1790, 1833, 1852.
Consecration books, 1819-1826.
Consecration papers, 1800-1866.
Office papers, 1628-1927.
Omnibus facilities, orders in council, etc., 1857-1927.
Marriage allegations, licences, bonds, etc., 1763-1910.
Bishop's transcripts

(For most parishes the transcripts only survive from the early years of the 19th century, although for a few they begin in the 18th century. A detailed list can be consulted at the Record Office).

Diocese of Southwark. Records of this diocese, formed from the dioceses of

Winchester and Rochester in 1905, have been transferred to the Greater London Record Office by the Diocesan Registrar. The following are the principal classes of records transferred (gaps in series have not been noted):

Consecration papers, 1905-1963.
 Faculties, 1906-1957.
 Orders in council, 1905-1963.
 Visitation books, 1907-1951, and other visitation records.
 Office Papers, 1905-1969.

(E. D. Mercer).

September (No. 69)

Old Woking: Romano-British pottery (TQ 025565)

Sherds of various types of Romano-British pottery, including a number of sizeable rims and bases, have been found by the Mayford History Society on land belonging to the Pyrford Court Estate beside the Wey at Wokingpark Farm, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream from the ruins of Woking Palace or Old Hall. The site has been visited by Mr. Holling and by Lady Hanworth. Limited trenching has been carried out and further investigation of the site will continue.

(Nancy Cox).

October (No. 70)

Hall Place, Church Road, Mitcham (TQ 273685)

The site of Hall Place, currently being developed by the Education Department of the London Borough of Merton for a special school, has the distinction of being the oldest known continuously occupied site in the parish of Mitcham, with a documented history of over 600 years. Recently completed excavations by the archaeological section of the Merton Historical Society have now provided evidence of buildings on the site in the 13th century and occupation in the 12th century.

The limitations of time and labour available precluded an ambitious excavation, but in two short seasons, and with excellent co-operation from the building contractors' representatives, foundations were examined which, apart from some anomalies, correspond substantially with what is known of the ground plan of the Medieval and Tudor Hall Place demolished in 1867. Other parts of the site were investigated, but total stripping was out of the question.

The site is tentatively identified with one of the two demesne farms of Whitford recorded in the Domesday survey. It is clear that beneath the rubble of the late Victorian house on which the school is now being built there lies a complex of foundations dating back to the Middle Ages. The open hall it-

self, and the chapel of 1348 lie to the west of the school, and although partially overlain by an access road, are relatively undisturbed by current building operations. The potential has been demonstrated convincingly, it remains to be seen whether or not the opportunity for further excavation will ever present itself.

An interim report has been prepared. It is hoped that a final report will in due course be published in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections*.

(E. N. Montague).

Three Sites in Woodmansterne

1. The Old Rectory (TQ 279597). This house, left unoccupied about three years ago, has now been partly gutted by vandals. Before it reached its present sad state the writer had attempted twice to obtain permission to visit it, for inspection and photography, but was refused. Early this year, learning of its condition, he paid several visits and photographed the frontage. The building does not seem to be older than the late 18th century, though the *Victoria County History* states that portions appear earlier. A large out-house of flint and brick could certainly be. The site is destined for road building.

2. Clockhouse Farm Estate (TQ 278601). This is now being developed for housing. Three visits were paid here earlier this year, hoping to locate more of the active flint industry discovered by the gaspipe line excavations. Search was practically impossible over much of the ground as the surface had been strewn thickly with pebbles and grit after the very wet weather to enable the tractors to gain a hold on the thick clay. Only Victorian pottery and a little 18th century glazed ware were found. The modern farmhouse has no interesting feature, but it had been hoped to save and re-erect in the new estate the 200-year old clock which gave its name to the farm. Before it could be taken down it was destroyed by thieves trying to remove it.

3. The Park (TQ 276601). The 10 feet high brick wall which divides the present Rectory grounds from the open space called The Park (the site of the late Medieval Shorts Place) is in much need of repair, though not in danger of falling. It has been claimed that bricks in it are dated 1690, but the only date that could be found after close inspection was 1780, clearly marked, preceded by the initials 'I.L.' (John Lambert). After lengthy discussions between Banstead Council and the Church authorities as to who was responsible for repairs, it was found that the Council was the owner of the wall. As local feeling is strong that the wall should be retained for its character and setting, the Council has asked the Church to pay half the estimated cost of £300, but they can only offer £50. This was the position in December, 1969, and there the matter still remains, while the wall's condition slowly deteriorates and costs rise.

(E. A. Baxter).

November (No. 71)

Sefton Street, Putney (TQ 232760)

The second phase of this excavation by the Wandsworth Historical Society is now completed and the findings prove last year's theory that there was Neolithic occupation on this site.

A cutting has been investigated down to the top of the natural river alluvial soil, approximately 3 ft. 6 in. below the modern ground surface. Old maps indicate that this land had always been under cultivation before the present houses were built, and our findings agreed with this. One group of pottery covers the periods Medieval to Modern, there are a few Romano-British potsherds, and in the remaining ten Neolithic specimens three different fabric types can be recognised.

More than 1,300 worked flints have been recovered, of which about half are waste flakes. Owing to the absence of natural flint, large pebbles from the river gravel formed most of the raw material. A wide variety of tools are represented and include both single and composite sickle blades, skin scrapers of various types, knife blades, arrowheads, hammerstones, small chopping tools, and some very delicate micro-blades and fine toothed saws. There are also many snapped butts and points from prepared blades far in excess of the number of blades found, indicating transport of finished articles for use elsewhere in the neighbourhood. The site appears to have been a manufacturing area only, as no signs of actual settlement have been found, the only features being a natural drainage channel and some small post hole marks which could indicate a temporary lean-to shelter.

A cursory examination of the artefacts seems to indicate a date not earlier than mid-Neolithic, at about 2,000 B.C.

The Borough Council gave the Wandsworth H.S. the opportunity to carry out the excavation, and the Borough Architect's department gave help and interest.

(S. E. Warren).

December (No. 72)

Romano-British Burial at Wonerish (TQ 038447)

In May, 1970, a Romano-British burial urn was found about a foot below the surface, in digging a hole for a fence post alongside the drive to Holmecroft Nursery, Green Lane, Shamley Green, Wonerish. The urn is dark in colour and contained cremated bones. It has a very wide body rising from a narrow base, but the whole rim is missing, probably as the result of ancient cultivation, since the broken edges are much weathered.

Mr. G. P. Brown, the owner of the nursery, has given the urn to Guildford

Museum. Nothing else was found near the site except a single Medieval sherd.

(F. W. Holling.)

Excavation at The Grove, Ewell (TQ 219624)

Preliminary work on this site was carried out by permission of the Epsom and Ewell Education Committee, from August to October, 1970. A ditch, located by Professor S. S. Frere in 1939 (reported in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, XLVIII, 45-60), was sectioned and a junction between it and a smaller gully was revealed. Pottery recovered included a wide range of Romano-British wares, decorated samian, and shell-gritted wares. Daub and plaster fragments in the ditch section may be evidence for a possible dwelling in the vicinity. In an adjacent section, at the southern end of the site, a Mesolithic knapping surface was found, lying on the Thanet Sand. Further work is envisaged.

(F. F. Pemberton).

Merton Priory

As a result of information passed to them, about dredging operations being carried out on the River Wandle, members of the Merton Historical Society obtained permission from Messrs. Liberty & Co. to examine the river bank opposite their works. A provisional search disclosed certain types of masonry which might be connected with the Priory. Samples are being recovered for examination, and enquiry at the time also revealed the fact that the river is to be restricted at the upper sluices in order to conserve water supplies (and facilitate cleaning), in which case it is hoped to be able to examine the river bed.

(Merton H. S. *Quarterly Bulletin*).

Excavation at Farnborough Hill (SU 875566)

During the excavation (18th July-9th August) notified in *Bulletin* 67, two kiln foundations were fully examined, and a third which is incomplete was partly excavated. The kilns had a flue at each end. One had an oval oven six feet six inches long, and the other two were probably about the same size, but the details of construction differed in each case. The kilns were close to a large dump of yellow clay. There were also dumps of pottery of the late sixteenth to early seventeenth century, some of it overlying a continuation of the medieval ditch found in 1969. Medieval sherds were scattered in the lower levels and included fragments of lobed cups. Contemporary soil drains associated with the clay dump and an adjacent working floor were constructed of brick rubble in one case, and potsherds in the others. Many of the features extended beyond the area examined, and it is hoped to continue excavation in 1971. The writer has a few copies of a fairly detailed

account with site plan of the excavation, available on request at Guildford Museum.

(F. W. Holling.)

Medieval Pottery and Jetton from Compton Churchyard, (SU 954470)

Finds from a small excavation in Compton Churchyard in 1930 (described in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* XXXIX, 149-50) have now been deposited on permanent loan in Guildford Museum by the Rector and Churchwardens of Compton.

They consist chiefly of a Nürnberg jetton and part of a fourteenth century Surrey ware cooking pot ornamented with vertical thumbled strips.

The finds were formerly displayed in the church, but having been relegated to a cupboard, were in danger of being thrown away but for the timely action of the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council. This deposit prompts the suggestion that if members of the Society know of other public places where objects of interest have been retained for a long period, they could help to preserve such material by enquiring into its safe custody and encouraging its deposit in a local museum.

(F. W. Holling.)