

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

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*The Editor will be glad to receive short Notes on Discoveries and matters of Interest relating to the Antiquities and History of the County, for insertion in the "Collections," such communications to be addressed to him at Barbican House, Lewes.*

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### REPORTS OF HON. LOCAL SECRETARIES.

#### CHICHESTER.

The Rev. A. A. EVANS reports:—

A trench being dug last summer in the West Pallant close by All Saints church, a large stone, one of several, was encountered and was cut through. The portion unearthed was richly tooled, with acanthus leaves and a bit of Greek fret.

At some excavations in the Chichester cattle market last winter a considerable amount of Roman tile, some of it flanged, was found, also broken pottery of the same period, bits of Samian and pseudo-Samian, Upchurch ware, and other types. It was so abundant as to suggest that this piece of ground, which is close to the city wall and by the East gate, may have been a dumping ground for cast-away articles at that early period.

A little way beyond the East gate on what was portion of the Roman road, lies the "Litten," an ancient burial ground. Nearly always when this soil is disturbed, articles of interest are found. This spring corporation workmen have brought to me three cinerary urns with calcined bones, a white jar or jug of handsome design, which the authorities of the London Museum, to whom I took it for inspection, assign to about A.D. 150; an oil pourer of red ware of the same date; two keys of the thirteenth or fourteenth century and a fourteenth century counter.

Objects of interest are constantly being found in Chichester, and it would be a gain to a knowledge of the early history of the city if the Corporation could be induced to receive and store what is being found as a nucleus for a future museum.

One regrets to see features which give picturesqueness and charm to the city gradually disappearing. A large and expensive County Hall is to be built on one of the widest and fairest of its open spaces, that is the gardens and lawn behind the what is called "Wren's"

house. In the West Pallant an Elizabethan, or earlier, building consisting of heavy timbered panels filled with brick, part of the "White Horse," one of the oldest of the city's hostelries, has been removed to make way for a garage.

#### CUCKFIELD.

Miss M. COOPER reports:—

Under the direction of Mr. P. M. Johnston, the roof of Lindfield church has been repaired. Many of the beams supporting the Horsham stone roof have had to be renewed. The plaster roofing of the chancel, aisles, and transepts has been removed and the beams exposed. In the north transept has been found a curious pigeon-ladder leading from the cross beam into the roof, presumably for the use of the owner of the pigeons, of which there were many traces found, especially over the south transept. An aumbry has been opened at the west end of the south aisle, and half-a-dozen clay lump rush-light holders were inside. A primitive rush kneeler or hassock, made from an oblong piece of bog turf, was found on the top of the south transept wall. A small narrow doorway has been revealed in the north wall of the north chancel aisle.

#### HORSHAM.

Mr. S. E. WINBOLT writes:—

In my report in Vol. LXXI. I alluded to the site of the iron works at Dedisham. Last summer, with the help of a party of Christ's Hospital boys on several afternoons, I dug through a big area of iron slag by the stream flowing into the Arun. It was  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 ft. thick, but there were no signs of bloomery hearths below, and my conclusion is that it was simply a dump of slag carted there for use on the heavy plough land. It was a common practice in the neighbourhood to dress heavy clay fields with glass or iron slag. On a field near Slifehurst, north of Kirdford, were recently found a good specimen of Roman steelyard weight, 24 oz.—probably an iron or lead core faced with copper—and fragments of Roman pottery. Horsham has formed a branch of the Regional Survey Association, and is doing good work in connection with an area of about 10-12 miles square. Personally I have spent several months of the autumn of 1930 and the winter of 1931 in investigating mediaeval glasshouses in the Surrey-Sussex border district. Results are being published in the *Sussex County Magazine*. The Society of Sussex Wealdsmen, with headquarters at Horsham, continues to do valuable work in co-operative walking over the countryside, keeping an eye on public rights of way and commons. They make a point of using old bridle roads and early trackways. Since the foundation of the Society in 1926, they have traversed 1932 miles on footpaths and bridle roads of Sussex and the adjoining parts of Surrey.

I regret to have to report the death of Mrs. E. C. Henderson, of Sedgwick Park, on the 23rd January. She was a keen member of the Society, and a few years ago had the site of Sedgwick Castle excavated and the surroundings cleared. One of her last acts was to make valuable presentations to the Horsham Museum.

## EASTBOURNE.

The Rev. W. BUDGEN reports:—

In the summer of last year in the laying out of an estate road on the western slope of Horsey Bank, near the Eastbourne Electric Light Works, a pit containing sherds of Roman and Roman-British pottery was excavated and produced a good quantity of fragments. In view of building operations in the future, at the suggestion of Lieut.-Col. Gray, F.S.A., some tentative digging was done on the site of Hydney. Fragments of mediæval pottery were found in many parts of the site, but the only evidence of building was the floor of what was probably a barn, with two carved thirteenth century arch stones, alien to the site, which were used as a sill.

## HASTINGS.

Mr. J. E. RAY reports:—

During the past year the preservation of the ruins of St. Mary, Bulverhythe, has still engaged my attention. By an arrangement between the Hastings Corporation and the owners of the estate, it was understood that these ruins would be preserved. I regret to say, however, that only the eastern part of the church has been preserved and a road has been cut through the western portion, the foundations of which together with the foundations of the tower have been destroyed.

In the course of the demolition of a herring deeze a mortar or receptacle, lipped at the top edge, of sandstone was discovered embedded in the ground and has been removed to the Hastings Museum; it may have been used in connection with the salting or drying fish.

Recently in the course of redecoration of a first floor room at the Church House Guestling belonging to Sir Anchtel Ashburnham-Clement, Bart., a tempora painting in black and white has been discovered over the fireplace, probably dating from the latter part of the sixteenth century, and this will be preserved. Watch has been kept in connection with various excavations in the district, but nothing of archaeological interest has been discovered. One or two further sites have been noted on which worked flakes have been found.

Owing to the recent fire at Battle Abbey, certain restoration work has become necessary to the ancient buildings, and this has

been entrusted by the Trustees of the Abbey Estates to Sir H. Brakespear, who recently sent a letter to *The Times* describing the damage done, which has fortunately resulted in very little of a time prior to the dissolution of the Monastery being damaged.

## LEWES.

Mr. SIDNEY SPOKES reports:—

Alterations in the old buildings of Lewes have resulted in some discoveries of interest and also in some regrettable demolitions.

Two late eighteenth century houses in Friars' Walk (Friars' House and Friars' Cottage) have been destroyed to make way for the new premises of the Lewes Press. Friars' Cottage had a picturesque timber front, with rusticated wooden quoins at the angles, of which examples are now becoming scarce. Friars' House possessed a charmingly-designed staircase and some good carved chimney-pieces. The latter were secured by Mr. Percy Bridgman, and the most elaborate of these has found a home at "Waterton," Angmering. Record drawings of the staircase by Mr. E. F. Harvey are in the possession of Mr. W. H. Godfrey, who with Mr. E. J. Bedford obtained photographs of the buildings before demolition.

No. 83, High Street has been remodelled and formed into shops. Mr. Bridgman has preserved the stone entrance doorway, and plans and details have been made by Mr. Harvey.

A large portion of another house has just been removed at No. 176, on the north side of High Street. It was a timber-framed structure apparently of the sixteenth century, and some photographic records have been made. Adjoining it to the west is the interesting three-gabled house with overhanging storeys now divided into Nos. 174 and 175. The preservation of No. 174 was referred to in our report for 1929 (*S.A.C.*, LXX., p. 221), and now Mr. A. Wycherley has exposed the massive oak storey-posts and tie-beams in the top floor of No. 175. At the same time an interesting stone fireplace with moulded jambs and four-centred head has been uncovered. The spandrels are carved, and the stonework is in good condition. The whole house is one of the most interesting buildings in the High Street, and No. 175 retains a considerable quantity of oak panelling in the ground floor. The back (until the demolition at No. 176) formed a very picturesque court enclosed by the ancient wings of Nos. 174 and 176.

In arranging for central heating at Barbican House, a stone fireplace of exceptional interest was found intact behind the panelling in the small room to the right of the entrance. It is of the four-centred type with moulded jambs and arch. The spandrels are beautifully carved with leaf ornament and enclose scrolls bearing the initials I M H and the date 1579. The interior showed evidence of three successive fireplaces, and these remains have not been disturbed.

A find of more than usual importance involving the recovery of carved stones formerly belonging to Lewes Priory came to light recently. The Society is indebted to Mr. Arthur Woodward of Plumpton for information that architectural fragments had been discovered in the foundations of a barn at Ashurst Farm near the racecourse. Mr. Godfrey, who inspected them on behalf of the Society, was invited at the same time by Mr. Edward Hudson to see another collection of similar stones at Plumpton Place. Subsequently the stones from Ashurst Farm were presented to Barbican Museum by the executors of the late Mr. William Hodgkinson, and Mr. Hudson has allowed the Society to have his collection on permanent loan. Most of the stones are very beautiful examples of Cluniac carving of the twelfth century.

An interesting front, hung with feather-shaped slates and adorned with three pilasters at Nos. 16 and 17, High Street, Cliffe, has been reconstructed in its lower part and the old shop front has been replaced by a modern one.

The transcription of important records has been continued by Miss Lucy Godfrey, who has completed the two first Registers of All Saints' Church and the first volume of the Town Books, 1554-1708.

The barrow on Cliffe Hill, which had been previously opened, has been re-excavated, and search made for possible "secondary" burials. On the north-east side the broken fragments of a cinerary urn, six inches high, were collected, and close by were bones and teeth of a child aged five years. Near the south-west circumference another urn, more than a foot in height, but much crushed, was found a few inches beneath the chalk; and about two yards away a mass of charcoal and chalk contained cremated bones and teeth of an adult. Both urns are of the Bronze Age. Nearer the centre, bones and teeth of another adult and of another child, aged eight years, were found. A small cinerary urn with the burnt bones of a child, now in the British Museum, was discovered in 1826 at Cliffe Hill (probably by Dr. Gideon Mantell), and must have come from the same barrow, as it is the only one shown there on the Ordnance Map.

#### RYE.

Mr. R. A. VIDLER reports:—

The Playden Neolithic site on Mockbeggar Farm, which Mr. H. J. Cheney, one of our members, commenced to excavate last year, has yielded most interesting results. One dwelling out of what appears to be a village has been uncovered, and many flint implements, much broken pottery, charred wood, etc., have been, by the kindness of Mr. H. J. Monkhouse, the owner of the field, deposited, on loan, in the Rye Museum. The discovery of iron ore has added greatly to the speculations as to its period.

While alterations were being made to an outbuilding at the back of the thirteenth century house in Church Square, Rye, now considered to have belonged to the "Friars of the Sack," the foundations of an apparent prolongation of the eastern wall to the south were uncovered for some 10 feet. They were 2 feet in width and about 18 inches below the surface, and commenced about 24 feet from where the present wall ends. Photographs were taken and careful measurements made before the trench was filled in.

The visit of the Sussex Archaeological Society was welcomed warmly by the townspeople, and it is hoped it will result in new members and greater interest in the work of the Society.

In October a paper was read by Mr. W. J. Andrew, F.S.A., before the British Numismatic Society on the existence of a mint at Rye, in the reign of King Stephen. This has since been printed in "Sussex Notes and Queries," Vol. III., No. 6.

The Museum continues to receive further exhibits of local and general interest, but, though visited by over 2000 people last year, is unfortunately unable to pay its way without appealing for public support.

#### SHOREHAM.

Mr. E. F. SALMON reports:—

A fine *denarius* of Antoninus Pius has recently been found here. It has at last proved possible to excavate the Roman villa at Southwick, which has proved to be of exceptional size. This work was carried out under Mr. Winbolt's supervision, and a full report will, it is hoped, appear in the next volume of *S.A.C.*