

EXTRACTS FROM THE BULLETINS OF 1968

January

Southwark: Excavations at Broadwall (TQ 31428027)

An excavation took place at the north end of National Car Parks' car park in Hatfields. A trench 50 feet by 10 inches was cut across Broadwall but the roadway itself was not excavated because of the presence of a deep sewer down the middle. The eastern half of the trench was extensively disturbed by a basement and service pipes, but was excavated down to river clay, down to which the disturbance extended. Thus the true top of the river clay in this section was not preserved.

The western half of the trench was also disturbed by a 19th century cellar but beneath the pavement was found three layers of compacted gravel intercalated with black layers containing a little domestic rubbish. Beneath the lowest gravel layer was another black layer which contained material dateable to the second quarter of the 17th century so that all the gravel layers must date to after *c.* 1650. Beneath this was river clay which was excavated to about 10 feet deep, with a slight change of colour at about 0 feet O.D.

These gravel layers are obviously road surfaces on top of the clay river bank known as Broadwall. Their late date is rather surprising, but the bank was obviously used before without any surface on it though the material would suggest not before about 1625. It was unfortunately not possible to obtain a profile of the bank because of the disturbed nature of the site, nor did it produce any dating evidence for the building of the bank. (G. J. Dawson)

February

Farnham: Earliest road in West Street (SU 83684675)

A deep trench was cut in West Street to accommodate a surface water drain. The section ran from the E. corner of Vernon House to the Hart Junction. The trench cut through the deposits here to a depth of 16 feet and provided a section through previous road surfaces and the river gravels of Terrace E, penetrating several feet into the Lower Greensand. Natural deposits are replaced at a depth of about 40 inches by a black layer containing abraded flints, pieces of wood and animal bones. The layer is approximately 5 inches thick and is topped in some places with 3 inch rounded cobbles. A metatarsal of a juvenile red deer was found in the deposit. Above the black layer were seen many indeterminate brownish gravel layers before the modern road foundation begins at a depth of approximately 8 inches. No finds useful for dating have been recovered.

In the writer's opinion, the depth and strikingly different colour of this layer compared with the later road surfaces suggest that it may well be of R-B date. (H. G. A. Booth)

Walton and Weybridge: Ice houses

The Mount Felix ice house has been located in the gardens of *Hill Rise*, Manor Road (TQ 098667). Only a 10 foot fragment remains, but as this is curved in two planes a reconstruction has been possible, revealing that its dimensions were similar to those of the Burhill ice house. Information is sought as to whether its destruction was deliberate or as a result of bombing.

According to Lady Smallpiece, the upper part of the Claremont ice house has been blown off, presumably by the same vandals who have badly damaged the Claremont Belvedere. (Dial Stone)

March

Bramley: Flint and other finds (TQ 016443)

The discovery of worked flint and what appears to be small pebbles covered with a layer of white glaze has been reported by Mr A. M. Green of *Old Firs*,

Linersh Wood Green, Bramley. Some of the flint material shows secondary working and is of mesolithic type. The glazed pebbles are not so easy to place. Mr Green drew attention to slight hollows in the lawn near the place where the flint had been found. The site, which is in his garden, is on the edge of the Hythe beds of the Lower Greensand where they join the Alluvium bordering the Bramley branch of the River Wey. (E. E. Harrison)

Streatham: London - Portslade Roman Road (TQ 303731)

Observations carried out at a building site at the north corner of the junction of Telford Avenue with Streatham Hill produced inconclusive evidence for the course of the London to Portslade Roman road. A strip about 20 feet wide along the west side of the site was not excavated except in the basements of a former house but the rest of the site was crossed by many contractor's trenches and one sewer trench was cut from the corner of the site to the centre of Telford Avenue. Layers of post-medieval metalling were observed and patches of orange gravel containing some chalk flints. This last was almost certainly road metalling but any possible indication of alignment was obscured by shoring. Similar orange gravel was found elsewhere on the site where it had been laid to form the drive-ways of the former house. The site generally showed post medieval disturbance to a depth of some 20 inches.

The projected course of the London - Portslade road runs diagonally from S.W. to N.E. across the site.

(Condensed from D. Imber in S.L.A.S. *Newsheet*)

April

Putney: Further excavations at The Platt (TQ 239767)

The Wandsworth Historical Society carried out a further excavation on both sides of The Platt at the end of last year. The result of previous excavations were noted in *Bulletin* No. 28 (April, 1967). The work was under the direction of Messrs. P. Atkins, N. Farrant and S. Warren.

Previous excavations in The Platt and elsewhere had established that there was an R-B settlement at Putney from c. A.D. 70 to 370. A ditch system of the 1st century, overlaid by a possible hut floor, was discovered during an excavation at the end of 1966 in the garden of Nos. 6-12 The Platt. In the 'floor' was discovered a burial urn of the early 2nd century. The aims of the 1967 excavation, which in the main was into the site of the demolished houses, were the elucidation of the plan of the possible hut and the closer dating of the ditches.

Strata containing mixtures of materials dating from the R-B period to the 18th century came right down to, and in some places penetrated, a cobbled surface of large gravels which represented the first pure R-B level. In these strata there was a considerable amount of R-B material, including coins, from the 3rd and 4th centuries. It must be concluded that all features of the later R-B period, apart from any pits or ditches, have been effaced by ploughing.

Three non-contemporary ditch systems were revealed, each cutting across the others. One of them flanked on at least two sides an area of cobbles which contained a simple hearth made of re-used standard Roman tiles. The cobbled area does not, after all, seem to have been a hut but was possibly a courtyard. In the surface of this 'courtyard' a 1st century bronze brooch was found. Several small mounds of burnt daub were found on top of the cobbles, two of them containing nails and one a bronze coin, in good condition, of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. In a number of places around the courtyard small pits containing snail shells were found.

To one side of the courtyard two complete funerary urns dating from the last quarter of the 1st century were found in excellent condition. The larger urn measures 10 inches in diameter and is of dark grey ware with a white slip around the top. The derivation from a Belgic form is clearly apparent from the cordons and impressed vertical strokes on the shoulder of the urn. The smaller of the two is only three inches in diameter and is decorated with hatched lines and a

black slip around the top. The larger urn contained the cremated bones of an adult; the smaller one, which was empty, had no doubt held food for the hereafter.

The local importance of the site is demonstrated by the fact that six Roman coins were found. In normal contexts this is not a great number but to these must be added the ten previously found over a span of five years. Of these, two were chance surface finds and two were found on the same site during the previous excavation. The six latest finds range from a coin of Marcus Aurelius, dateable to A.D. 177 to a doubtful coin of Arcadius, 395-408. The attribution of the latter coin to Arcadius is uncertain but it is a very late type. The latest Roman coin previously discovered on the Putney site was one of Valens (c. A.D. 370). With three coins now dateable to the last quarter of the 4th century, a late terminal date for the settlement at Putney becomes less of a hypothesis and more of a certainty. As yet no stratified layers have been found later than the end of the 2nd century but the probability of their existence must be assumed.

(From Wandsworth Historical Society's *News Sheet*)

May

Thames Ditton: Monumental Brasses

In *Bulletin* No. 30 (June, 1967) mention is made of slight restoration of monumental brasses in the parish church of St Nicholas, Thames Ditton, and the discovery that shields of the Blakeden-Boothe brass (placed by Julian Boothe in 1580) have proved to be palimpsests.

The three wall brasses taken down for cleaning and resetting are the one mentioned above, that to John Polsted and wife (placed by daughter Julian Boothe in 1582) and the finely engraved brass to Erasmus Forde (died 1533) and wife Julian who died in 1559 when the brass was erected. No actual restoration has been effected but it should be noted that a further small part of the Forde brass has been lost in recent times. This was adjacent to the already missing piece at the bottom left hand corner.

The Forde brass, which had been awaiting refixing for some time, is now back in the place it occupied before its cleansing (fixed to a pillar in the north chapel - perhaps not an altogether desirable position) and is secured with fibre-glass backing. From its shape and other evidence the home of this brass must have been originally within the western compartment of the earlier Easter Sepulchre, to which place it was hoped it might be restored but this did not materialise for doubtless good reason.

Mr B. S. H. Egan, of the Monumental Brass Society, deserves our thanks for the time and expertise expended by him in the task of cleaning and refixing these three brass monuments. (A. White)

June

Clapham: Search for Stane Street (TQ 294747)

Excavation was undertaken in 1967 in the grounds of the Henry Thornton School, Clapham, in an attempt to provide evidence for the course of Stane Street. The line of Stane Street suggested by Winbolt and Margary crosses the school playing fields over a distance of some 170 feet.

A gravel feature, which could have been the remains of a road, was traced across the site for a distance of at least 80 feet. The feature had almost parallel, straight edges and was, on average, 41 feet wide. It appeared to have a small ditch on its eastern side and coincided closely with the Winbolt-Margary line.

To the north-east a similar feature, whose width could not be determined, was found making an angle of some 25° with the first feature. If the two gravel strips are to be considered as the remains of Stane Street a distinct alignment angle is indicated, possibly denoting a local diversion to avoid a stream.

(From a report by D. Imber to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society)

Godalming: Wyatt's Almshouses and the Carpenters' Company

The records of the Carpenters' Company, especially the Court Books and the Wardens' Accounts now deposited in the Guildhall Library, London, contain a good deal of unpublished information about Surrey, although Mr E. B. Jupp supplemented his *History of the Carpenters' Company* (2nd ed. revised, 1887) by an article on Mr Richard Wyatt's bequest, 1619 (*S.A.C.* III, 277-323).

Provision was made for an annual visit by the Master and Wardens: their lodging at Surrey inns, transport and entertainment was arranged in advance, Godalming church bells were rung, a special service was held and new clothes provided for the poor men every third year (or, after 1766, annually). The Company's papers show the route taken both out and home, whether via Ripley and Guildford, or, as was more convenient from the City, through Epsom, Leatherhead and Dorking. In 1751, two Landau's were provided 'to carry the Gentlemen to Godalming'; this is a very early mention of this type of coach which could be opened and served as a carriage.

In 1757 the clerk was ordered to write to Mr Todman at the *Swan* at Leatherhead 'to provide a Fillet of Veal Roasted and the knuckle boiled with Bacon and a Bread Pudden boiled, but no fish, against the Company comes there to dinner'. The objection to Leatherhead fish was presumably to the water-souchet of boiled perch, for which Dorking was famous.

On the admissions to the Almshouses there are letters from local clergymen, and reports on the character and behaviour of those admitted. On 5th November, 1839 it was reported that 'Thomas White had again broken the Company's rules . . . and had introduced to this Apartments a Female to the great Annoyance of the Rest of the Poor Men . . . Ordered that unless he do immediately send the female away he shall be expelled . . .' Thomas White, who died on 5th May in the following year, seems to have complied.

The Carpenters' Company still continue their patronage of the Almshouses, now in Farncombe, though their Twickenham Almshouses in Gothic style have been demolished. A new history of the Carpenters' Company is being prepared by Prof. T. C. Barker of the University of Kent. (J. L. Nevinson)

Lambeth: Excavations off Lambeth High Street (TQ 306788)

This excavation was briefly noted in the Society's *Annual Report* for 1966 and a note on the coins found appeared in *Bulletin* No. 32 (August, 1967). More information about the excavation is now available.

The area excavated between August 1966 and March 1967 covered 800 sq. feet and the average depth of trenches was 5 feet. It was, then, the only site available for excavation in old industrial Lambeth. The aim of the excavation was to recover stratified groups of waste pottery from the late 17th century and 18th century kilns known to have existed nearby.

With the removal of the remains of the 19th and 20th century structures the lay-out and position of the 18th century dwelling which stood on the site was revealed. Unfortunately this possessed a deep cellar which destroyed any earlier structures near to the High Street. Away from the High Street were found a late 18th century building with a corner fireplace and an interesting 17th/18th century furnace in a tiled workshop area. Further still away from the High Street was a system of 18th century cess pits associated with tile and brick drains. A late 18th century warehouse wall ran along the site.

Pottery found which predated the structures included a scatter of medieval sherds, amongst which were fragments of green glazed, off-white Surrey ware, and a group of 16th/17th century London coarsewares containing many examples of the thumb pressed rim type of lead-glazed red earthenware similar to a type of ware known to have been produced in Lambeth. Associated with the 17th/18th century structures were sherds of tin glazed pottery and stoneware derived from the nearby kilns together with kiln furniture and wasters and common domestic pottery.

The waste products from the kilns includes fired, but unglazed, 'biscuit' as well as glazed sherds of drug jars, small cups, chargers, plates, bowls, spouted vases and tiles. The earlier material includes some fragments of polychrome chargers and others with geometric patterns in blue only, all of the chargers having lead glazed backs. The later 18th century material, invariably decorated only in blue, includes plates and bowls with both geometrical and pictorial designs on them - these later plates and bowls have tin glaze on the back. Most of the tiles are decorated with a design of a bowl of flowers, some of the drug jars have a horizontal scroll pattern in blue around the body.

Kiln furniture found includes a quantity of saggars, with three vertical series of seven triangular holes spaced 120° apart around the circumference, and some triangular pegs and supports. Only two or three fragments of trivets were found. Although very little stone ware was recovered some evidence of its manufacture was found including a quantity of stoneware kiln bricks, some incorporated into the late 18th century walls, and fired irregular lumps of stoneware clay possibly used as kiln supports.

No evidence of habitation on the site before the late 17th century was found: before that the area appears to have been open farm land prone to flooding as witnessed by the several drainage ditches cutting across it. The excavation has produced a corpus of stratified tin glazed ware, mainly of the 18th century, which can be positively ascribed to the Lambeth kilns.

The clay tobacco pipes, the small number of polychrome chargers, the lack of trivets, are all pointers to a date in the 18th century for all the tin glazed ware found: its association with material from stoneware kilns strongly supports this. The amount of late 17th century material found is too small to draw any conclusions from but further small trial excavations in the area would help solve the problem of what Lambeth was producing in the late 17th century and when it started producing tin glazed ware. Another problem remaining is where the so-called Blue Dash Chargers, usually attributed to Lambeth, were made as no fragments of these were found.

(From a report to the Southwark Archaeological Excavations Committee by M. Seeley and B. Bloice)

July

Morden: Stane Street (TQ 24846728)

Excavation for drain laying in Morden Park recently provided members of the Merton Historical Society with opportunities for confirming the line of Stane Street. A section was measured, drawn and photographed.

Excavation for cable laying near Morden Library revealed chalk layers probably associated with the entrance to the farm which previously stood here (TQ 25866882). Stane Street is thought to have passed further to the north. (*London Naturalist* No. 39 (1959), 130-2). (E. N. Montague)

Putney: Is Saxon Putney a figment of the imagination?

As a result of the recent archaeological excavations in the north-eastern part of Putney, around The Platt and Beamish Road, a considerable quantity of R-B material has been brought to light. This has been carefully analysed and proves that there was R-B settlement of some sort in the district until late in the 4th century. Associated with these finds have been numerous relics of the 19th century and a few from the Middle Ages. There has, however, been absolutely no trace of Saxon remains nor any evidence that there was a settlement here during that period. In fact none of the finds in Putney during the last hundred years has revealed anything from that period at all.

This absence of Saxon remains is the more curious, since all authoritative works on place-name origins, e.g. *The Dictionary of English Place Names* and *Place Names of Surrey*, give the derivation of Putney as 'Putta's hythe, or landing place'. From this it has always been assumed that Putta was a Saxon chieftain or groupleader who established a settlement on the bluff near St Mary's church

in the 5th or 6th century. Actually there is no written evidence, either direct or indirect, to back up this 'logical' conclusion. The first mention of Putney which survives is as *Putelei* in the Domesday book of 1086. The form *Puttenhuth* does not appear until 1279. Although this does not mean that Putney was not occupied until just before Domesday, there is indirect evidence in charter of A.D. 693 concerned with the boundaries of Battersea and Wandsworth. This mentions both these places, also such minor features as Bensbury (Caesar's Camp) and the Beverley, and, since the boundary in question runs past the site of Putney without any reference to it, it is not unreasonable to assume that the site was derelict from late R-B times.

Since the alleged origin of the name is taken from a very late (1279) form, and since Saxon-type place names were still being formed as late as 1250, there is no reason to assume that the site was settled again before about 1000 A.D., or that the Domesday clerks were guilty of a gross mis-spelling: 'Putta's ley', or clearing becomes an acceptable version. On the other hand, the evidence, adduced below, that Putney was a secondary settlement, also supports the 'landing place' theory. In any case, the simple fact that Putney was described in Domesday merely as '... and 20 shillings from the toll (of the ferry) of the vill of Putelei and there is a fishery unrented' under the entry for the Archbishop of Canterbury's manor at Mortlake, means that it was a very small place with few inhabitants and little agricultural land. Even the fishery may not have been in Putney as we know it, for later on in Domesday it says 'Earl Harold set it (the fishery) up in the land of St Paul's.' This land was in Barnes, near Ferry Lane, and existed until the late 19th century as a detached portion of Putney.

The stress placed in Domesday on the river-life of Putney gives perhaps the greatest support for the theory that it was a secondary settlement. The boundaries between Surrey and Middlesex, or Putney and Fulham, have always followed the centre of the Thames, but this is merely administrative convenience and no such line would have been drawn by fishermen of that time. Until well into the 18th century Fulham was much more important than Putney: for example it became the seat of the Bishop of London (Erkenwald) in 691 and was one of the largest manors of Middlesex in the Domesday Book. The need for a ferry at this point must have become apparent at an early date: it was the best route from London to Kingston, avoiding the low-lying, marshy ground on the south bank. Since traffic would have been primarily generated from London, the ferry would most likely have begun from Fulham. How logical then, at a later date, for one of the watermen to cross the river and establish a small settlement, based on fishing, the ferry and a little agriculture, which was named after him. The date of this may have been about 900, or any time in the 10th century. A direct parallel is found in site naming today, e.g. Jerry's Hill, Tibbet's Corner, and even Price's Folly or Bigg's Row - now names of purely local significance as the name Putney may have been until the late 13th century.

Thus it may be argued that Putney began its second phase of life as a ferry-stage in the 10th century, a growth outwards from Fulham, rather than, as has long been tacitly assumed, as original Saxon settlement. The fact that Putney is located on the outside of a bend in the river, where the current is swiftest, as opposed to the sandbanks of the Fulham shore, would mark it as unsuitable for an early landing, which supports the theories propounded above.

(K. A. Bailey in Wandsworth Historical Society's *News Sheet*)

Southwark: London Bridge approach (TQ 328803)

Deep excavations near London Bridge have revealed groups of 17th-18th century pottery scattered over the area. The remains of numerous oak piles formed two rows running parallel to each other at approximately 10 feet apart, between which layers of gravel and silt were found. In this were numerous clay pipes, shoes and pot sherds. Also a group of three tin glazed chargers, tobacco pipes, a stoneware jug and a complete glass bottle, was found in another part of the site.

A most interesting feature was revealed in a deeper part of the excavations. A narrow trench showed a revetment and gravel covered by clay. The remains of this revetment were of oak boards and piles associated with a gravel and silt layer of which the upper 8 inches were revealed. In this gravel were scattered the remains of oak boards and piles mixed with R-B pottery.

(J. C. Thorn in *The Thames Basin Observer*)

August

Mitcham: Possible unrecorded round barrow (TQ 29106765)

At this spot a 'Maiden Hill' is shown on William Marr's map of Mitcham Common, dated 1685, a copy of which is in Croydon Reference Library. In the same position a 'Round Hill' is shown on a plan of Mitcham Common prepared in 1812 for Commissioners appointed for the enclosing of common-land in the manors of Beddington and Bandon. This map is also at Croydon.

There was extensive gravel digging on Mitcham Common throughout the 19th century and no trace remains of the hill on the ground. A 1:10,560 air photograph taken by the R.A.F. in May 1948 (copy in the Mitcham Public Reference Library) does not show with any certainty a feature at this point. The position does, however, coincide with the 100 foot contour on the current 6 inches to 1 ml. map.

(E. N. Montague)

Reigate: Discovery of human bones (TQ 25154906)

Workmen, excavating a new inspection pit in the churchyard of St Luke's Church, Church Road, Reigate, unearthed a collection of human bones. The bones appeared to belong to a teenage individual and were pronounced by the Police pathologist as being several hundred years old. However, as both skull and leg-bone fragments were recovered from a hole some four feet square and as there were many bones missing which one could expect to find preserved while there was no sign that the burial pit extended beyond the limits of the workmen's excavation, the burial was distinctly odd. The bones were found about two feet below the surface at the extreme N.W. corner of St Luke's churchyard which is not, it should be pointed out, a recognised or consecrated burial ground.

Mr A. Pepys Squire, a member of this Society and editor of *St Luke's Parish Magazine*, has discovered what seems to be a valid explanation. Mrs Lylie Bromley, of Doversgreen, was reminded by the reporting of the discovery in the *Surrey Mirror* of a story told her many years ago by her father, Mr Comber. Mr Comber, who died at the age of 92 in 1962, had worked at Reigate Priory as a gardener for over fifty years. At about the turn of the century, he had said, some human bones had been dug up in the Monk's Walk at the Priory and these had been taken in the dead of night to St Luke's for reburial. The nature of the recently discovered bones accord well with their being those buried by Mr Comber.

(D. J. Turner)

October

Provisional list of moated sites in N.E. Surrey

The writer has for some time been collecting information about moated sites in Surrey with the object of bringing up to date and amplifying the rather inadequate list published in *V.C.H.* The present list is confined to the ancient county north of the Downs and east of the River Mole. It is published in the hope of eliciting comments on the sites mentioned and information about sites omitted. Further provisional lists dealing with the rest of the County will be published in due course.

Ashstead. MOAT FIELD (approx. TQ 180590). Field name on the map of John Lawrence, 1638. Now covered by railway.

Banstead. PRESTON HAWE (TQ 236572). Not strictly a moated homestead but a more complicated earthwork of allied type. Excavated but unpublished.

Bermondsey. JACOBS STREET (TQ 341798). Large moat-like arrangement of water channels shown on Rocque's *Map of London*, c. 1746.

Carshalton. ROTHERFIELD ROAD. (TQ 283645). Possible remains of a moat shown on the Tithe Award Map. Site recently bulldozed.

Chelsham. LEDGERS FARM (TQ 381588). Rectangular enclosure listed in *V.C.H.* and mentioned in *Neolithic Man in N.E. Surrey*.

Coombe. Near Coombe House (TQ 212698). Rectangular enclosure with wet moat. Listed in *V.C.H.*

Coulston. TOLLER'S FARM (approx. TQ 308572). Large moat-like ditch seen in a sewage trench in 1945. *Sy. A.C.*, L, 57.

Epsom. HORTON MANOR (approx. TQ 1961). Irregular enclosure. Listed in *V.C.H.* as totally destroyed.

Esher. WINTERHOUSE FARM (TQ 122637). Fragmentary. Listed in *V.C.H.*

Farley. FARLEY COURT (TQ 372602). Fragmentary. Listed in *V.C.H.*

Lambeth. LAMBETH PALACE (TQ 307791). Complex enclosures.

MOATHOUSE, Stockwell (TQ 304764). Destroyed. *Survey of London*, xxvi, 90.

Leatherhead. PACHESHAM MANOR (TQ 153578). Recorded and excavated.

Proc. L.D.L.H.S. various nos. Listed in *V.C.H.* and a scheduled Ancient Monument.

Merton. WEST BARNES (TQ 226685). 19th century map evidence suggests that this farm was once moated. It was originally a grange of Merton Priory. Site now covered by school buildings.

MERTON PLACE (TQ 261700). Illustrations and descriptions of this one-time home of Lord Nelson show that it was partially moated. Whether the moat was the remains of a genuine medieval site or whether it was part of a gardening extravaganza is not clear.

S.W. of St Mary's Church. (TQ 250694). 19th century map evidence suggests that there was possibly once a moated site here.

Mitcham. RAVENSBURY (TQ 265681). Water channels enclosing a rectangular area may merely be connected with water mills. A large pond, possibly a medieval fish-pond, immediately to the east has now been filled in and built over.

THE CANONS (TQ 279683). The pond to the east of the house could be the remains of a moat. The site is that of a medieval manor.

Morden. MORDEN HALL (TQ 260687). A complex enclosure probably considerably altered when the present house was built in 1770.

Newington. RECTORY (TQ 319789). Mentioned in Johnstone's *Schedule of Antiquities in Surrey* but corroborative evidence is so far lacking.

Tolworth. TOLWORTH COURT (TQ 203652). Fragments remain of what, apparently, was once a rectangular enclosure. Listed in *V.C.H.*

Tooting. FRANCISAN ROAD (TQ 278711). Obliterated in 1848. *Sy. A.C.*, LXII, 93.

Wimbledon. OLD RECTORY (TQ 244715). The writer recalls reading a statement to the effect that the Old Rectory was once moated but cannot now trace the reference. Corroborative evidence is needed.

BURLINGTON ROAD (TQ 240717). Moat-like ditches marked on the Tithe Award Map are probably merely outflows connected with the nearby lakes.

(D. J. Turner)

November

Balham: Stane Street (TQ 286733)

Recent investigations of builders' trenches revealed a scattered layer of mortared gravel and large flints astride the line of Stane Street as projected by Mr Margary. This gravel underlay a topsoil much disturbed by rubble-filled depressions, and it overlay a deep layer of very hard red gravel which extended about 78 yards of the site. The mortared gravel appears to have been transformed from one mass to two separated sections by central denudation.

(D. Imber in *S.L.A.S. Newsheet*)

Croydon: Fieldwork and excavation on Croham Hurst (TQ 338631)

The Archaeological Section of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society carried out a detailed survey of Croham Hurst during the first week in July 1968. The work, carried out under the direction of Mr Peter Drewett with the assistance of Mr Peter Sandiford, also of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University College of London, was designed primarily to give systematic training in archaeological field techniques to members of that Society.

Croham Hurst, an outlier of Blackheath pebbles and Thanet sand lying on the chalk of the North Downs, is well known for its so called 'hut-circles', four of which were indecisively excavated by Mr George Clinch in 1899. Two of these depressions were excavated as part of this year's work. No evidence was found for human excavation or habitation of these depressions. Mr G. M. Davies, M. sc., F. G. S., suggests that these depressions may be due to subsidence resulting from localized differences in the Blackheath Pebble Beds. The depressions occur high on the north-eastern slopes of the Hurst and may mark the outcrop of a sandier belt in the Pebble Beds.

Archaeologically the most important aspect of the work was the discovery and trial excavation of two sub-rectangular hut sites both of which may tentatively be ascribed to the late Mesolithic. On the surface both hut sites were visible as sub-rectangular enclosures, one 35 feet \times 27 feet and the other 27 feet \times 18 feet. The banks were shown to be the remains of low turf walls. Only small areas in the interiors of the structures were excavated so only one post-hole was found in each structure. The structural significance of these post-holes is as yet unclear. 146 fire cracked flints were found within the two structures but there were no notable concentrations to indicate a hearth site. The flint work from the site, which has been examined by Dr G. J. Wainwright, F.S.A., appears to be late Mesolithic in character. The flint work included a transverse arrowhead, two burins, an awl, a scraper and two blades together with waste material.

It is intended to excavate totally the two hut-sites as a two-week training excavation in July 1969. Interested people from the Croydon area are invited to contact the Secretary of the Archaeological Section of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, Mrs L. Thornhill, 31 Devonshire Way, Croydon, CRO 8BU, early in 1969.

(P. L. Drewett)

Horley: 17th century vicars

Manning and Bray were unable to list the vicars of Horley between the induction of George Needham in 1613 and the death of William Wills in 1669 due to the loss of the registers. Although three published lists have attempted to complete the series none of them are very satisfactory. During research into the history of Court Lodge Farm, Horley, from the documents in Christ's Hospital Archives, a much more complete list of vicars has been prepared.

When George Needham was appointed vicar a *quare impedit* was brought by Ann Needler, widow of Henry Needler. The outcome of these legal proceedings is not known, but in 1620 Christ's Hospital paid George Needham 50s. expenses arising from this action. Presumably George Needham's appointment was revoked and Nicholas Whiston, Ann Needler's son-in-law, appointed. Nicholas Whiston resigned in 1626 to be replaced by his son-in-law William Waller. The latter died in 1647 and until Henry Pryme was appointed Richard Huggett

officiated. However, Henry Pryme resigned in 1648 to be replaced by Henry Holloway, in preference to Anthony Huggett. Later that year Henry Holloway resigned and was succeeded by John Amyes. Although he regained his position until his death in 1660, for much of this period John Amyes appears to have been vicar in name only. In 1652 George Bladworth was officiating by order of the Committee of Plundered Ministers, and he continued at least until 1654/5. By 1658 Robert Hawkins was proposed by the parishioners as their vicar, but in 1660 they were requesting that he should be removed. However, throughout this period Christ's Hospital refused to recognise officially anyone other than John Amyes. On his death John Elwood was appointed but resigned soon after in 1660/1, so that William Wills was appointed in his place.

The list of vicars since the death of William Wills in 1669 has been published several times, but in general with one omission. In 1827, on the resignation of Frederick William Franklin, John Greenwood was appointed, who resigned later that year whereupon Edward Rice was appointed. (G. P. Moss)

December

Operation Pipeline again

The cutting of two fresh gas-main trenches in the Banstead area, has given a fresh impetus to the search for surface finds and the possible location of fresh archaeological sites.

The whole length of the two new cuts has been examined between the northern boundary of Oaks Park and the southern edge of Banstead above the Chipstead Valley (TQ 285615 to 278592). Bad weather hampered observation.

Oaks Park. A dozen worked flakes, including one true pygmy, and also part of a large coarse core were found. The only pottery found was some coarse early 18th century sherds of a type that was also found in Woodmansterne village. These finds were concentrated at the northern end of the park while the end near the mansion site yielded nothing earlier than mid 18th century glazed sherds.

Woodmansterne (TQ 272601-272602). The northern trench showed chalk near the surface and was barren of any finds until about a third of a mile from the village two medieval sherds were found, one being a heavily gritted rim sherd. About a quarter of a mile from Woodmansterne Lane approximately a hundred flint flakes, very mixed in quality and, presumably, date, were picked up. These included some pygmy flakes and a core while a few showed some secondary working.

Woodmansterne (TQ 282597-282602). The southern trench between Hatch Lane and the south eastern edge of Big Wood produced many flakes and a fine end scraper.

Banstead. South of Woodmansterne Lane a small area of loam yielded three flakes and a few sherds – the earliest being of Tudor date. Between here and the Chipstead road the lack of finds was disappointing in view of previously reported finds.

It is hoped to examine the area between Big Wood and the B 280 further, especially near Little Woodcote, as R-B pottery has been found nearby.

(E. A. Baxter)

Carshalton: Burials

W. R. Church's *Advertising and Family Almanack for 1877* (p. 3) reporting the events of 1876 states:

'While excavating about 3 feet from the surface (on the Sutton Estate) a workman came upon a skull (*sic*) and other bones of a human body supposed to have been buried for a hundred years or even longer. Many of the bones broke into pieces while attempting to lift them. It is, of course, idle to attempt to assign the reason for human remains being found in the spot mentioned!'

The Sutton Estate included Ringstead Road, Croft Road and Meadow Road and so the find spot of these bones may have been close to those discovered in 1903 when Carshalton Road was widened (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, XXIII, 213).

Excavation adjacent to the Carshalton Road find spot (TQ 270642) in 1961 failed to locate further graves (*London Naturalist*, 41, 28-30; *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, LX, 50-3). (C. L. Quinton)

Ockley: Trouts Farm (TQ 166429)

This fine timber-framed house continues to deteriorate but the gradual decay has exposed a beam in the fireplace room, formerly covered with plaster, on which is the inscription 'THY ◊ GETTING ◊ IS'. This is adjacent to the wall-post inscribed 1581 from which the S.C.C. (in *Antiquities of Surrey*) have dated the house. Both are obviously in the same style of lettering with serifs and with the uprights of letters and figures notched at top and base.

Manning and Bray and the Gentleman's Magazine *Topography of Surrey* state that 'at an old Farmhouse called Trouts on a beam in the kitchen are the following . . . in raised letters:

Look well to thine house
In every degree
And as your means are
So let your spending be.'

The inscription is therefore from the third line but inaccurate as quoted. Also the letters are not raised but incised. No further inscribed timbers have been found though further falls of plaster may reveal some. (Mrs J. Banks)

Putney: Lost memorial brass

Lysons, writing his description of Putney parish church in 1792, lists a whole series of memorial brasses recorded by earlier writers but destroyed or unrecognisable by his day. In fact, it seems that only one tomb with brasses and black letter inscription had survived more or less intact, that of John Welbeck and Agnes his wife.

Since then, perhaps at the rebuilding of the church in 1836, this too has gone, leaving only the figure of John Welbeck, in his 15th century armour, and part of the inscription. These, together with one other surviving fragmentary brass, that of Elianor Agar (1583) are mounted under glass on the wall of Bishop West's chapel. For many years, in spite of her Elizabethan costume, Elianor was wrongly described as the wife of John Welbeck, an error which was even carried into print in the history of the church published in 1936.

By an amazing stroke of good fortune, Mr M. Bull, who is keenly interested in the parish church, has come into possession of an original water-colour painted about 1787, which shows the complete pair, John and Agnes, the latter 'habited in a long robe', just as Lysons says, as well as the full black letter inscription. (*News Sheet*, Wandsworth Historical Society)