



Fig. 3. The manor house at Nethorne with the hall with its superimposed hearths in the centre. Beyond it is the solar and to the left the kitchen block.

seasons⁴. The site is on land (TQ 293559) which has not apparently been cultivated or built over since the buildings were abandoned about the mid-14th century or earlier. A fairly complete layout of the extensive remains of an early medieval manor house has been recovered. The hall and solar measure 66ft by 32ft. externally, the solar being 18ft. wide with two narrow doorways opposite each other in the long walls at the north end. The walls of the solar are 35in. wide and are constructed of Merstham stone blocks with clay, chalk lumps and flint filling.

The local heavy clay mixed with crumbled chalk served as a binding material. The roof was tiled. The walls of the hall were apparently built of timber-framed wattle-and-daub on flint foundations, and the roof seems to have been of thatch. Inside the hall a diamond-shaped central stone hearth, 4½ft.

4. *Op cit* 9

square, lies slightly over a smaller square hearth. The remains of a flagged passage run along the inside of the wall at one end. A separate flint kitchen, 21ft. by 22ft., contains an open hearth and a fireplace. Between the kitchen and the hall is a chalk floor, probably covered by an extension of the tiled kitchen roof.

The foundations of an earlier building were then discovered, running crosswise beneath the solar, showing the first house was a compact stone-built block 30ft. by 19ft. with well-built Merstham stone walls, probably of early 13th century construction. A fuller report, including significant later finds will shortly appear. In the meanwhile, the air photograph (Fig. 3) gives a good impression of the manor's layout and the site, now grassed over, apart from its emergent walls, preserves its atmosphere of medieval peace amongst the encircling trees.

London's Archaeological Societies — 11

THE BOURNE SOCIETY

EVER SINCE the Caterham Centenarian Train steamed into Caterham Station on 6th August 1956, to the strains of a march specially composed by our Vice-President, the Bourne Society has had an attractive leaning towards the unconventional. Its objects are "to extend the knowledge of local history by encouraging the investigation of Caterham, Warlingham, Coulsdon, Purley and associated districts," aims unexceptionable and politic enough; yet, right

from the beginning, members investigated Customs' boundary posts and historic ponds, organised a photographic survey, and a Good Old Days Competition for old folk's reminiscences.

Since it began publication in 1961, the Bourne Society's annual *Local History Records* has cast its net wide for both contributors and readers. Volume I had "Living Memories" from almost every parish in our area and can

now claim amongst its 5,000 purchasers, readers from six continents. Its successor, in addition to the Sanderstead digs, (see above) contained a chart of Godstone Caves, a taster for K. G. Farries and M. T. Mason's, *The Windmills of Surrey and Inner London*, which has since become a standard work, and an item on place-names which, though strictly local in its material, still seems, to me, a model introduction to the subject. By Volume VI we had, I believe, discovered the secret which has made *Local History Records*, Britain's best-selling annual: that a well-presented book (we have a perfectionist publisher for our President!) written in a style suitable to the general reader will command a sale on the bookstalls alongside James Bond and the *Kama Sutra*.

1967 was to see the Bourne Society's most important non-archaeological discovery to date: the Rowed Estate Map of Caterham in 1736 was retrieved from Canada after 140 years—a beautiful and fundamental document now worthily housed at Caterham Library.

Since then, Bourne Society archaeology has taken its

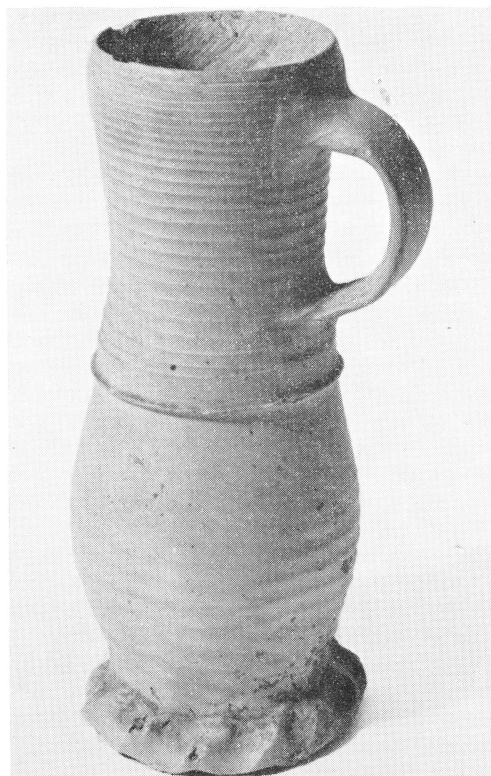
place beside other local history activities: car rambles, a cave descent, midsummer floral "prances," even an air stare; winter lecture courses on pyramids, prehistory, pottery and local pictures at seven local centres; the discovery of an impressive series of flints west of the Bourne Valley and of the local painters, Lockton, Hassell and Hall; the publication of *Monuments* and *Countryside Maps*, besides the *Coulsdon History*; emergency digs at Coulsdon Woods and Warwickwold; exhibits and bookstalls at Surrey symposia; the ever-urgent battle for Conservation in a Green Belt area.

The aim of the Bourne Society, with a membership of 550 strong, is still to use the rich talents of its members—researchers, diggers, artists, photographers, genealogists, walkers, naturalists and the rest—in a creative discovery of our beautiful and unexpected district. Is local history a branch of archaeology? Or archaeology a branch of local history? Perhaps, one day, we shall find out! (Inquiries to: 6 Downlands Road, Purley, Surrey).

JAMES BATLEY

CHAUCER'S LONDON

The Mirror of all England



Sieburg stoneware jug imported for use in London in the 14th century; from Smithfield. Height 7½ inches.

(Photo: London Museum)

THE LONDON-BASED archaeologist will probably think of Chaucer's London, subject of the London Museum's summer exhibition, in terms of the wealth of medieval material excavated from city sites and preserved at Kensington Palace and at Guildhall Museum. By turning not only to the Guildhall Museum but to fellow museums in London and throughout the British Isles, and to churches, colleges, libraries, archives and private collectors for supporting excavated material and for what little of the 14th century survives intact, the museum can show how by 1400, in the course of some of the most significant years in its history, London had become the focus of social, artistic and literary aspirations and the hub of trade and government, England's true capital.

As the first loan exhibition of medieval life that London has seen for some decades, and as a preview of the combined London Museum and Guildhall collections, whose permanent merger is scheduled to allow the Museum of London to open in 1975, the exhibition is not to be missed.

"Chaucer's London" will run from 1 April to 31 August and will be open from 10 to 6 on weekdays and from 2 to 6 on Sundays. Tickets will cost 20p for adults and 10p for children.