

LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. 1

No. 10

1956

## OCCASIONAL NOTES

**EIGHTEENTH CENTURY Crime Prevention.**—In May 1955, the former landlord of The Duke's Head public house (a one-time meeting place of the Leatherhead Vestry, the old local government unit) drew our attention to an ancient carved board lying in his premises, and this was purchased for the Society by the generosity of five members, including Mr. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue, Mr. S. G. Blaxland Stubbs, and the late Mr. R. B. Benger. We give below a transcription of the wording on the board, which is carved in relief on two sheets of oak joined lengthwise to form a board approximately 5 ft. 6 ins. in width by 2 ft. 2 ins. in height. From the general appearance and style of lettering it may be judged that the board dates from the first half of the eighteenth century. We have not so far discovered any published account of other such associations for the prevention of crime, though it may be assumed that this was a local example of a widespread attempt to arrest lawlessness.

LEATHERHEAD ASSOCIATION for the Prosecution of Felons and others GUILTY of MISDEMEANOURS within this Parish. NOTICE is hereby given that the Members of this Association have agreed to Pay the following REWARDS on Conviction to the Person or Persons who shall discover and apprehend, any Offender or Offenders.

Viz	£	s.	d.
Murder, actual or attempted, Breaking into & Robbing any dwelling House, or Wilfully and Maliciously setting Fire to any Building, Stack of Corn, or Hay.	5	5	
Wilfully & maliciously Killing or maiming any Horse, Beast, or Sheep, Robbery on the Highway, Breaking into & Robbing any dwelling House, in the Day, or Mill, Workshop, Warehouse Etc. at any time, or receiving Stolen Goods, knowing them to be so.	4	4	
Horse Stealing, Sheep stealing, or Beast stealing.	4	4	
Pig stealing, Poultry stealing, or robbing any Fish Trunk or Pond.	2	2	
Stealing any kind of Corn, or Grain, from any Barn, Granary, or other Building, Implements of Husbandry, Trade or Occupation, or Breaking or Damaging any Timber, Tree, or Trees.	2	2	

This board is now exhibited in the Lecture Room of the County Library in The Mansion, Church Street, Leatherhead.

## Tenth Annual General Meeting

*Held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, 21st November, 1956*

THE MAIN business of the Meeting, after the adoption of the Committee's Report and the Accounts to 30th September, 1956, and the re-election of the officers, consisted of a general discussion on the Society's financial position (referred to in "Secretarial Notes" elsewhere) and on means to improve it. Many valuable suggestions were put forward which are engaging the Committee's earnest attention. At the close of the meeting a Special General Meeting (duly convened) was held at which it was resolved that the Rules should be amended to increase the annual subscription for adult members to ten shillings.

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**of the**  
**Leatherhead and District Local History Society**  
**Vol. 1, No. 10**  
**1956**

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**OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR**  
**1956-57**

*Chairman:* Capt. A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

*Hon. Secretary:* A. T. RUBY, M.B.E.  
 (53 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham. Tel. Leatherhead 3127.)

*Hon. Joint Secretary:* P. G. SHELLEY  
 (Beechcroft, Hawks Hill, Fetcham. Tel. Leatherhead 2696.)

*Hon. Treasurer:* S. E. D. FORTESCUE  
 (Glyne Cottage, Lower Road, Great Bookham. Tel. Bookham 2606.)

*Hon. Programme Secretary:* Office vacant

*Committee Members:* F. B. BENGER  
 S. N. GRIMES  
 J. G. W. LEWARNE (*Co-opted*)

*Hon. Auditor:* Office vacant

*Hon. Librarian:* J. C. WILLIAMS

*Hon. Acting Editor of the "Proceedings":* F. B. BENGER

## SECRETARIAL NOTES

THE continued keen interest in the Society's work which is evident from so many sources gives much pleasure to your officers and forms a sharp spur to further efforts to maintain and expand its activities. It is a pity that this widespread interest does not result in a greatly increased membership but the actual joining up seems to frighten many persons in its apparent finality. Actual net membership has dropped rather steeply to 157—mostly owing to removals from the neighbourhood—though a resultant increase of "subscribers" for the *Proceedings* can be reported.

The following fixtures were arranged during the year 1955-56:—

1955	
November 16th	(At the Annual General Meeting.) A lantern lecture by Dr. J. P. C. Kent, Ph.D., M.A., on "Coins and the local historian".
December 10th	A lantern lecture by Captain A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., on "The Howards of Ashted—Their town house and life in London."
1956	
January 26th	A lantern lecture by Dr. M. P. Topping on "Fossil Plants."
February 23rd	A talk by Mr. M. B. Cookson on "A world tour of Roman Sites in Britain and Overseas." Most regrettably the speaker was unable to illustrate his talk owing to lighting difficulties; he has promised a further visit in the near future.
March 22nd	A lantern lecture by Dr. E. M. Dance on "Old Surrey Iron Industries."
April 21st	A visit to Guildford Museum where Dr. Dance followed up her lecture by conducting the party round the Museum exhibits.
May 26th	A visit by coach to Charlton House, Charlton, S.E.
June 23rd	A conducted visit (by coach) to Haslemere Museum.
July 7th	A visit, conducted by Mr. F. E. Manning, to Stoke d'Abernon church.
August 25th	A visit, conducted by Capt. L. R. Hutchison, to Great Bookham church.
September 22nd	A fungus foray on Box Hill, conducted by Mr. T. E. C. Walker.

It has, regrettably, to be reported that the attendance at many of these meetings was very disappointing and also resulted thereby in some financial loss to the Society. As recommended in the Committee's Report, and endorsed at the Annual General Meeting, future fixtures will have to be held at less regular intervals until a successor to the Hon. Programme Secretary (who has resigned) is forthcoming. Your Committee will do their utmost to maintain this feature of the Society's work.

The work of the Groups is recorded elsewhere. We repeat an appeal to more members to come forward to assist in the actual activities both in the field and in research work, much of which can be done at home and at one's leisure.

No. 9 of the *Proceedings* is an extra large issue and fully maintains, it is believed, the standard of its predecessors. Copies of this and all back numbers are available for members and non-members as are also Offprints of the Report on the exploratory excavation at Lee Wood, Effingham.

It is much to be regretted, in view of the valuable and extensive work already carried out by the Society (see the article "A Decade of Progress" elsewhere in this issue) and the wide interest in its activities as reported above, that the immense increase in printing costs has caused the Society's financial position to become precarious in the extreme. Details as to this were set out in the Committee's Report sent to all members prior to the last Annual Meeting. It has been necessary to raise the annual subscription to ten shillings and the Committee are also exploring other means to obtain the finance necessary to carry on and maintain the publication of the *Proceedings*.

Members and others are again reminded that donations of any size are urgently needed. Also that bankers' orders for subscriptions can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer.

As above stated, Mr. Stacy has resigned as Hon. Programme Secretary while Mr. Songhurst has been obliged to resign as Hon. Editor owing to his frequent absences abroad on business and consequent inability to supervise publication. Mr. Lewarne has been co-opted as a member of the Committee and has therefore been required to resign as Hon. Auditor. At the time of writing none of these posts has been filled and the remainder of your officers and Committee members are coping as best they can with the additional duties thrust upon them. Volunteers for these offices are urgently required.

It should be pointed out that most of your officers have served in their posts continuously for ten years. In the nature of things this cannot continue indefinitely and fresh appointees will have to be found in the near future.

A. T. RUBY *Hon. Secretary.*

## REPORT ON THE GROUPS

THE WORK of the Groups has been actively maintained throughout the year. The members of Group "A" (historical records and research) have continued their work in all parishes without anything of very special importance to relate. Group "B" (cartography) has been busy on the series of maps, and Group "C" (photography) has been much occupied in preparations for a projected exhibition of old visual records and contrasting modern scenes to be held in 1957. Group "E" (natural history) has been specially engaged in obtaining the data for the map of the ancient vegetation. Group "D" (archaeology) has not carried out any actual fieldwork during the year, though the expansion of local building may well call for its services at any time.

## A DECADE OF PROGRESS

By the HONORARY SECRETARY

### GENERAL

THE TENTH year of the Society's existence since its inaugural meeting in 1946 has now expired and it seems fitting that in this, the tenth Number of the *Proceedings*, an attempt should be made to note and assess the Society's achievements to date in carrying out its declared objects of (*inter alia*) stimulating interest in, conducting research into, and recording, the local history of the Leatherhead area.

Much has been done to interest local residents and others in the district's history. During the ten years 400 persons have been adult members at one time or another of whom some have passed away and others have left the district (not all of them relinquishing their interest in the Society). The many factors in present day circumstances tending to restrict active and financial support of interests outside the home probably account for the others who, from time to time, have lapsed their membership. Nevertheless, as your Hon. Secretary's post and telephone can testify, there are many residents (and others) who take a lively, if circumscribed, interest in the long history of the area without, necessarily, wanting to join. Every inquiry, however trivial, receives the fullest attention and the free supply of all the information available. There must now be few social bodies in the district which have not asked for and obtained a lecturer from the Society to talk to them on local history and the numerous and penetrating questions at the end of the meetings form good evidence of the close attention accorded to the speaker.

Contact has been and is maintained with local schools, in particular with St. John's School, St. Andrew's High School for Girls, Leatherhead Secondary School, and Parkside Preparatory School, East Horsley. Talks have been given to them as required and every encouragement is given to their pupils (and to those of every other local school) to take part as far as possible in field activities or submit fossils and other finds for identification.

The friendly relations which have been established with the County Education Committee, the County Record Office, the County Library, and the Urban District Council give great pleasure to your officers and enable them to feel that there exists a recognition of mutual interest which is most helpful.

Members of the Society have been instrumental in effecting the preservation of a number of important archives. Such assistance as has been possible has also been given to the National Register of Archives, and the National Buildings Record.

The annual *Proceedings* forms, perhaps, the Society's most potent advertisement and it is felt that the Society can feel proud of the standard set in the beginning and since

maintained—not the most simple of tasks. Every contribution is designed to be factual, instructive, and, at the same time, interesting to the general reader. With few exceptions the contents form the result of new and original research by members, and contributors deserve grateful thanks for their work and time necessarily devoted to each article. Apart from the copyright copies for the British Museum the *Proceedings* find their way not only to University and other public libraries in England, but even into several United States and Swedish University libraries.

## THE GROUPS

There is, however, a long list to record of even more concrete results in the field and from the study.

**Group A** (historical records, etc.). In **Ashted** members, under the guidance of your Chairman have embarked upon a close and detailed study of the history of that parish. Remarkable results have been achieved and a vast amount of new and most interesting material has come to light. An authentic record, as nearly complete as such a task can ever be, is approaching its accomplishment. In **Leatherhead** (a) the late Mr. G. H. Smith, with the assistance of members, thoroughly searched the parish Registers and Vestry Books. The Registers have been copied by members and were then indexed by The Committee for Microfilming Parish Registers; many items from the Vestry Books have also been copied and placed in the Society's archives. An account by Mr. Smith of the Slyfield owners and the valuable contents of the "Slyfield Chest" kept in the church has appeared in the *Proceedings* and before his lamented death he had almost completed a detailed history of the parish church which it is hoped will be published in the near future. (b) Mr. F. Bastian has been actively engaged in researches into prominent Leatherhead families of the 16th–17th centuries and has unearthed very interesting information, much from quite unexpected sources. These will appear in the *Proceedings* from time to time. (c) In connection with the excavations at Pachenesham your Hon. Secretary was led to an investigation into the early history of that manor and into the details of the lives of Sir Eustace de Hacche (who bought and rebuilt the manorhouse in the late 13th century) and of subsequent owners of the manor in the 14th–15th centuries. Accounts of his talks to members on these matters have appeared in the *Proceedings* and detailed publication will appear in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*. In **Fetcham**, Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne has already put in an immense amount of work on the history of the parish, which he is continuing, and has completed an excellent guide to the parish church which has been published by the Parochial Church Council. Mr. Lewarne's first investigations have been directed to the Church Registers and an article thereon has appeared in the *Proceedings*. He would much appreciate help from other Fetcham members in his complicated task of sorting out all the new information already obtained as well as in the amassing of new items. In **The Bookhams**, the Little Bookham parish Registers have been copied and indexed. Mr. John H. Harvey, F.S.A., is, of course, the authority on the history of these parishes and has been good enough to pass much material on to the Society for its records.

The above only sets out the "highlights" of the work of the Group: an account of every item achieved to date would occupy far too much space. We must, however, mention the work of Mr. F. B. Benger in preparing the interesting and instructive accounts of many of the old buildings in the area which have appeared in the *Proceedings* and to more of which we look forward. Nor can we omit reference to the valuable articles contributed by Dr. A. K. Kiralfy, Ph.D., LL.B., taken from his researches into medieval records of legal matters.

**Group B** (Architecture, surveying, etc.). All survey work in connection with the main excavations carried out by the Society has been done by this Group, and many of the plans required by the directors of the "digs" have been their work. So also have been the plans for Dr. Topping's articles in the *Proceedings* (see Group E below) and the map

of the scheduled sites in the area. The Group is at present engaged in the preparation of the series of maps showing the area as it appeared, or is conjectured to have appeared, at various stages of its history, now being included in the annual publications.

**Group C (Photography).** Though so important, the nature of the Group's work is unspectacular and too frequently unnoticed. The majority of the photographs required of and for the Society's excavations were done by the Group; also the photographic record of all the scheduled buildings in the area. Its members are always available to record vanishing features or anything required by other Groups including copying old photographs, etc., where the owner asks for the return of the original.

**Group D (Archaeology).** That the Society, when first established, was able to go off "with a bang" was largely due to the spectacular excavation in 1947-49 of the long-forgotten site of the manor house of Pachenesham magna, occupied, roughly between 1200-1380 A.D. Much valuable archaeological information was obtained from it as well as the stimulus to extensive historical research. The excavation, under your Chairman's expert guidance, afforded very valuable training in such work to many of the members of the Society and the exposure of the site formed a great local attraction. Interim reports of the excavation have appeared in the *Proceedings* and a full report will appear, in due course, in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections*. Another site of interest in Bell Lane, Fetcham, was excavated in 1952 under your Hon. Secretary's direction, occupied from about 1300-1760 A.D. (almost certainly the site of an ancient predecessor of the present Bell Inn). A brief report has appeared in the *Proceedings* and a full report will appear in the *Collections*. An exploratory excavation of the medieval manor house site in Lee Wood, Effingham, disclosing a most interesting site for future full excavation was also conducted in 1952-3, of which a full report appeared in Vol. I, No. 9 of the *Proceedings*. An unsuccessful attempt to trace the south aisle of Little Bookham Church was conducted in 1951. The discovery of a Mesolithic site near Young Street bridge in 1952 (see Vol. I, No. 6) was of great interest although little actual excavation was possible.

In addition many calls have been received, and gladly met, to investigate other sites and discoveries. Some have been of real interest while others have proved to be of little or no value. Nevertheless, it cannot be too often repeated that every discovery or possible discovery should be at once reported to the Society who will immediately investigate it and be pleased to do so whether it turns out to be of value or not. The recent immense increase in building operations makes it impossible for any one member to watch foundation trenches, etc., and it is necessary that every member should keep an eye on any development taking place in his or her locality and report anything that might possibly be of interest (pottery sherds, bricks or stone walls under the present surface, etc.).

**Group E (Natural history).** Here, again, the work of the Group is not so apparent to all members as it deserves. Its main concern to date has been the controlled observation of plant re-colonization of the chalk lands (see the Group's reports, particularly in Vol. I, Nos. 5 and 7). Annual fungus forays and other field explorations have been conducted, mostly under the able guidance of the leader, Mrs. M. P. Topping, Ph.D. Ornithological studies have also been carried out (see e.g. Vol. I, No. 5). All other classes of natural history are included in the Group's work, together with geology and geography. Fresh members of the Group are urgently wanted, especially for fieldwork which the present older members find increasingly strenuous.

**Group F (Folklore).** Although many members are interested in this feature no one has yet come forward to act as leader. The work that has been accomplished has resulted from items brought to light in the researches of Group A or reports from individual members and others. It is felt that even in such a comparatively limited area as that of the Society a greater amount of useful work could be done if some one would volunteer to organize and lead a Group.

## THE ARCHIVES

The archives consist of (i) printed material, i.e. books, pamphlets, advertisements, old programmes, guides, etc., etc. (ii) lists and catalogues relating to records and all other material concerning the district (iii) maps, plans, etc. (iv) cuttings from newspapers, magazines, etc. (v) photographs, engravings and other illustrations (vi) original documents or copies thereof (vii) miscellaneous notes, extracts, letters, etc., having a bearing on the local history of the district. These items already number some 600 and each has been indexed under many classified heads. The card index already contains some 7,000 cards showing from one to some 25–30 items on each. Your Archivist and his helpful assistants have not been idle. These records do not include the mass of records and notes in the possession of individual researchers in the Society.

## CONCLUSION

It is believed that a remarkably extensive and valuable amount of work in local history has been, and is being, done by the Society. Even more could be accomplished if more members would come forward and volunteer assistance both in fieldwork and in research. There is no need for the inexperienced to feel diffidence; there is plenty of simple work for beginners to do which would be of immense help to the all too few active workers. The latter would be only too glad to show newcomers “the ropes” and it would not be long before enthusiasm would seize them and fire them to further and even original efforts. This is the experience of all who have once “taken the plunge”, and it might be pointed out that *all* periods of history are of equal value and any volunteer can limit his or her efforts to whatever aspect of the subject happens to appeal. No member is asked to do more than is perfectly convenient at any given time: once started, enthusiasm will do the rest!

## THE PALEOLITHS OF WALTON AND BANSTEAD HEATHS

By L. W. CARPENTER

**W**ALTON and Banstead Heaths lie adjacent to each other on the top of the North Downs, and together form a triangular stretch of countryside which can best be described as a “North Downs Plateau”. This triangular plateau is bounded on the east by the Reigate to Burgh Heath road between Reigate Hill and Tadworth Court, and on the west by the Betchworth to Burgh Heath road between Pebblecombe Hill and Tadworth Court, while its southern base is formed by the North Downs escarpment between Pebblecombe and Reigate Hill. Each side of the triangle is almost exactly three miles in length, so that we have an area of some four square miles of open country. Much of this is heathland, quite a large part is laid out as the famous Walton Heath golf course, and some of it was cleared during the 1939–45 war and ploughed for growing corn. Periodic ploughing for growing alternate corn and hay crops still takes place. It was on some of this ploughed land that, in 1954 while searching for flint artifacts, I picked up the butt-end of a fairly large Acheulian hand-axe (figured and described in S.A.C., Vol. LIV, pp. 136 and 137). Being fairly certain that this implement had been manufactured and used locally I have spent much time since then in making a careful and systematic search of the area and this report contains a description of the finds made and the conclusions arrived at up to the time of writing it.

Some reference to the geology of the district is necessary when studying paleolithic sites, as the time-span is so large that considerable changes have taken place in the appearance of the countryside since paleolithic man roamed and hunted across it. The Reigate (South London) Sheet, 286, of the Geological Survey shows the district as a North Downs plateau of clay with flints, and a study of the contours will show that it is saucer-shaped, i.e., the plateau is contained by higher ground on every side except for one dry



combe on its eastern side. This characteristic of the plateau can best be seen by standing on the Pebblecombe road three hundred yards south of the windmill on Banstead Heath and looking southwards towards Pebblecombe. The fact that the area is mainly a saucer-like depression is particularly important. The surrounding countryside is higher than the centre in the North, South, and West, and rises on each side to heights above the 550 ft. contour line. Across the centre of the plateau is a dry combe which is known as Hogden Bottom where it crosses the Kingswood district. This dry combe has a slight fall only, across Banstead Heath, from which it runs out into the Chipstead valley. Along its bottom is a spread of dry valley gravel and on the gently sloping sides the many undulating heaps of clay with flints, gravel and chalk have probably been caused by solifluxion (earth-creeping) during the ice age. Further study of the geological map provides us with the clue as to the origin of this combe. It will be seen that it is one of several which once formed the headstream system of the River Wandle and this probably when the Wealden dome was elevated above the North Downs. When, in Miocene times, the erosion and sinking of the Weald cut off the supply of water from these streams they relied upon the few local springs which drained the gravels overlying the plateau clay. Two of these springs still exist and a third has only dried up in the past forty years. Such spring water and also surface water from melting snow and ice would flow across the clay until it came to the exposed chalk in the sides and bottom of the combe, where its force would gradually be spent as it percolated into the chalk. This surface flow and percolation can still be observed on the Heath in times of very heavy rain and even more dramatically on Headley Heath where in a heavy storm a considerable volume of water coming off the top of the Heath rapidly disappears when it falls into a chalk combe. We have, then, an area from which very little could have been swept away by ice, snow, and flood water during the ice age. Accumulated snow and ice could not have slipped from the plateau because of its retaining shape unless it had built up to a very considerable thickness and attained the proportions of a glacier, when it would have swept away the higher ground on one side completely. There is no sign of such glacier action south of the Thames valley and I am ready to conclude that much of the surface material in the nature of rock and soil remains more or less *in situ* from periods before the last great glaciation. By surface material I mean anything that comprises the top two or three feet of soil. Careful examination of such material should produce evidence in support of my assumption.

To describe the district as a clay, with flints, area is a general description, but leaves out the various localized patches of the Netley Heath type of gravel which are found scattered over the Heath. Chert pebbles, some quartzite pebbles and pieces of ferruginous sandstone occur quite freely with the scattered flint debris and these must be considered as Wealden erratics from very early times. In places boulder flints are so thick one could easily describe the soil as "flints with clay". Ploughed fields are very stony indeed. The clay itself is very variable in texture and while it is very sticky in some places, in others it becomes sandy and loamy. Many of these boulder flints are cherty and contain crystalline inclusions, and a keen observer is soon aware of the fact that there is a large amount of fractured and shattered flint. This shattering and bursting of the flint has been caused by the freezing of water which has seeped into the fossil inclusions and then been subjected to very severe frost. Many pieces which have escaped frost shattering are deeply frost pitted all over. The fractured faces of such flints are frost bleached as well as deeply patinated and show the fine, thermal hair-like cracks due to intense freezing. This frost-bleached patina is unlike the patina to be found on the flints which lie on the surface of the chalk downs and which is often soft enough to be scraped with a knife. Some of the frost bleached material has the appearance and lustre of old ivory while other pieces have taken on a bluish slate grey to mauve colour, especially when wet. This peculiar mauvish tinge remains when the flint is dried and is probably due to some absorption of iron salts from the clay. Ochreous patination or staining is rare. Varying types of markings and

staining can be found on the pieces of flint and some of these may be due to lichen growths in sub-arctic conditions either preceding or following an ice age. Flint implements having the markings, patination and bleaching just described are as hard and sharp as when manufactured and show no signs of rolling or abrasion.

While patination in itself cannot be accepted as any criterion of age, when comparing one flint implement with another, there are one or two important features about worked flints from Walton and Banstead Heaths which are useful when attempting to put these into a chronological sequence. On searching this area for struck flint I soon found that considerable quantities of unpatinated or very slightly patinated post-paleolithic material could be picked up. This covers a period ranging from the mesolithic to the probable Bronze Age in technique, but most of it would appear to be of Neolithic date. Patination is rare on this later worked flint and never seems to go beyond a pale blue or slightly milky tinge. A bifacially worked, leaf-shaped arrow head of Neolithic type shows a pale blue, milky patina and a broken Acheulian hand-axe (not figured) shows the same patina on the broken surface. Measurement of the frost-bleached mauvish patina on this hand-axe shows a thickness of 1.5 mm. on one face and 3 mm. on the other. This hand-axe we may therefore assume lay on its thinly patinated face for a very considerable period and was subsequently broken in Neolithic times. Another flake has been removed from one corner of the butt in still more recent times and shows a black lustrous surface. This black lustrous appearance is typical of several scrapers of Bronze Age type from the Heath. We have therefore a broken hand-axe showing a chronological sequence of weathered surfaces from paleolithic, through mesolithic or neolithic times to Bronze Age or a little later. This may be taken as a typical sequence of the struck surface appearance of any worked flints from the clay and gravelly parts of the heath. A few neolithic pieces from Hogden Bottom which have been in contact with the chalk have the characteristic chalk downland patina and are not included in this classification. The first hand-axe I found on the heath was ice-bleached and patinated and showed the fine thermal fractures across its surface. Every hand-axe found since is identical in surface appearance and texture with the first. Therefore, unless an unpatinated example occurs which is undoubtedly paleolithic in technique, I am not prepared to accept as paleolithic any unpatinated flakes or pieces of worked flint which may be picked up on the heaths. Flakes patinated like the hand-axes and found on the same sites I am prepared to accept as paleolithic. Some of these which show signs of having been put to some use and not just left as hand-axe manufacturing rejects I have figured and described in the report.

The two main sites on which I have picked up paleoliths are:—

1. **Banstead Heath.** The field which lies directly to the south of Hogden Bottom and which is completely ringed by horse gallops. A small pond of clear water surrounded by dwarf willow is situated in the middle of this field. This is a spring site and the water drains from the gravel at the top of the rise. For convenience I will call this the Gallops site.

2. **Walton Heath.** The field which lies to the east of the Pebblecombe road just about 1 mile north of Pebblecombe. The 2½" Ordnance Survey Map marks a pond here which is called the Pintmere Pond. This pond is now dry, except in very wet weather, and is completely overgrown with willow and other shrubs. This I will call the Pintmere Pond site. Two hand-axes have been picked up elsewhere on the heaths. The first is that described in *S.A.C.*, Vol. LIV, and the other was found in a ploughed field on Chussex Plain, but both were found without any associated paleolithic flakes. Such odd ones we might expect to find anywhere in the area. As so much of the district is sealed off by thick heath and golf course, it is possible that denser concentrations of paleolithic material still lie undisturbed just beneath the surface.

From the discoveries made so far it might be concluded that:—

(a) These paleolithic implements have remained more or less *in situ* from Acheulian times.

(b) They are all surface finds.

(c) Acheulian hunters bivouacked on this site and used the flint boulders scattered so freely on this high ground. Even during a warm interglacial period, when vegetation might have been even thicker than at present, these flint boulders could be obtained with a minimum of grubbing in the top soil. The fact that this flint is so fossiliferous and also contains crystalline inclusions did not worry the paleolithic hunter so long as he could obtain a keen cutting edge. There is, however, evidence that such inclusions have helped to disintegrate and shatter many of his implements during the ice age. Further dispersal and destruction has probably been caused by people of later cultures using some of the implements. I have a very good Neolithic or Bronze Age scraper which has been made from what appears to be a paleolithic flake and there are signs of paleolithic flake facets on later implements. The reader may ask why such discoveries from this area have not been made or reported before. Any would-be finder of paleoliths on the heath will soon come to realize how extremely difficult it is to see them, because of their predominantly neutral grey or mauve colour. This makes the flints very inconspicuous, especially in bright sunshine. They are also well camouflaged by being surrounded by so many other flints of all hues, shapes, and sizes, while the eyes of the seeker are continually distracted by the neolithic flakes which stand out fresh and unpatinated. One hand-axe I must have walked over on five or six different visits before I finally noticed it. Mrs. Richardson (a former member of the Croydon N. H. & S. Society) who lived near the heaths until 1919 and was a collector of flint artifacts, is known to have found paleoliths on Banstead Heath on the Gallops Site, but neither she nor her collection can now be traced. It would be interesting if some relative or friend could throw some more light on this with a view to extending the field of research on North Downs paleoliths.

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF ILLUSTRATIONS 1 to 18

**No. 1.** Long ovate hand-axe. Edges sharp. Butt heavy and retaining part of the cortex. Ice-bleached, glossy patination of ivory hue with faint red and blue spots. From the Pintmere Pond site.

**No. 2.** Butt end of triangular hand-axe with sharp edges. The break shows the same frost bleaching and patination as the rest of the implement. Cream to ivory glossy patination. Ref. to find spot and further particulars in *S.A.C.*, Vol. LIV, page 136.

**No. 3.** Triangular, flat hand-axe. Tip broken in antiquity and patinated as the rest of the implement. Ivory coloured, bleached patination with glossy surface. From the Gallops site.

**No. 4.** Small cordate piece of somewhat cherty flint. Shallow flaking with edges neatly finished. Grey to mauve, neutral shade of patination. From the Gallops site.

**No. 5.** Small pointed hand-axe of ovate shape and having a thick butt which retains a little cortex. Very sharp and one edge carefully worked. Appears to show two-period flaking with two different shades of ivory, frost bleached patination. Smooth and glossy. An odd find from the Chussex Plain area.

**No. 6.** A pebble tool. Frost bleached, glossy patination from ivory to pale mauve. May have been intended as a small hand-axe but the other face is left plain with two flake facets. From the Pintmere site.

**No. 7.** Ovate hand-axe of white, frost bleached patination. A crystalline inclusion in the centre has mainly disintegrated under frost action, which has also blown off a large pot lid flake from the face not figured. A good specimen spoilt by frost.

**No. 8.** A long flake of cherty flint with neutral grey to ivory patination. Edges show signs of use, but whether the trimming is intentional or has been caused by its use as a cutting tool is a matter of conjecture. From the Gallops site.

**No. 9.** Small pyriform hand-axe with a twist like that found on the S. twist ovates. Tip broken off in antiquity. Frost bleached, ivory, glossy patination. From the Gallops site.

**No. 10.** Flake of cherty flint. Some patination of an ivory hue. One edge appears to be deliberately trimmed with bold vertical flaking. From the Gallops site.

**No. 11.** A small flat ovate piece with shallow flaking and carefully worked edges. Ivory, frost bleached, glossy patination. From the Pintmere Pond site.

**No. 12.** Part of a thick flake with one edge steeply trimmed. Appears to be a scraper and not a cutting tool. Ivory, frost bleached patination. From the Pintmere Pond site.

**No. 13.** An unusual flake implement with trimmed cutting edges. One side retains much of the cortex showing it to be either a primary flake or a flattish pebble split in half. Ivory, frost bleached patination. From the Gallops site. It much resembles a similar implement found at Le Rochette, France, and figured as No. 731 in the Sturge Collection (British Museum).

**No. 14.** A scraper tool like No. 12 and also from the Pintmere Pond site. Since the drawings have been made two much larger and heavier flakes have been found, one used as a scraper and the other, with a sharp edge, as a cutting tool. Both these were also from the Pintmere Pond site.

**No. 15.** A hand-axe rough-out. This shows the removal of the preliminary primary flakes from the block of selected flint. The flint knapper rejected the block when he found a fossil inclusion on what was to be one of its cutting edges. This is shown at "a" in the illustration. Other "rough-outs" have been discovered, including one block of cherty flint which had ultimately to be rejected because of its crystalline nature. No. 15 is from the Gallops site.

**No. 16.** A rather heavy squat, triangular hand-axe of cherty and crystalline flint. Patinated neutral grey to mauvish. Much resembles the one found at Peasemars, Godalming, in the middle of the last century and figured as No. 455 in *Ancient Stone Implements* (Evans). From the Pintmere Pond site.

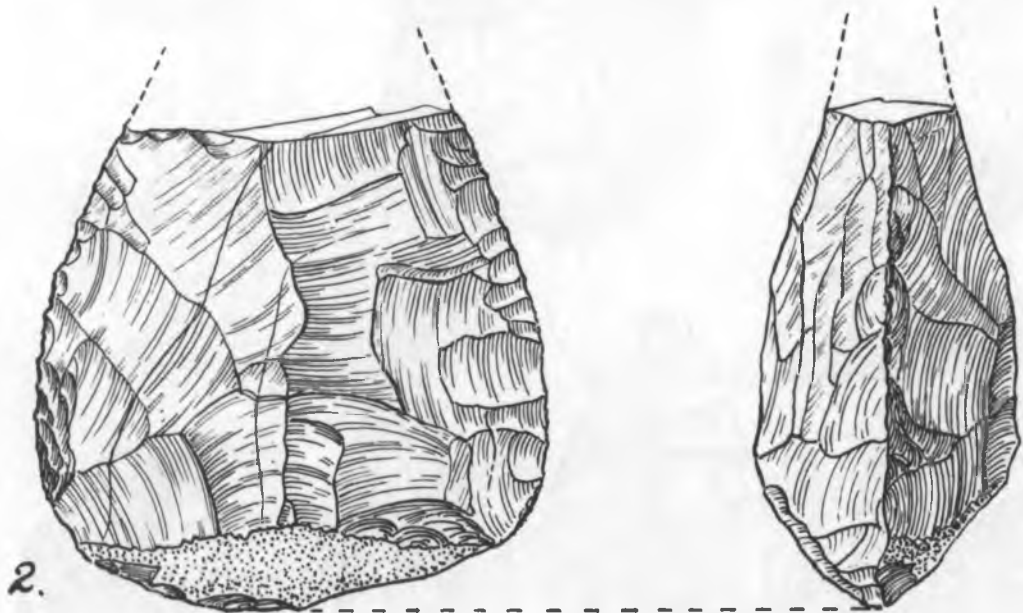
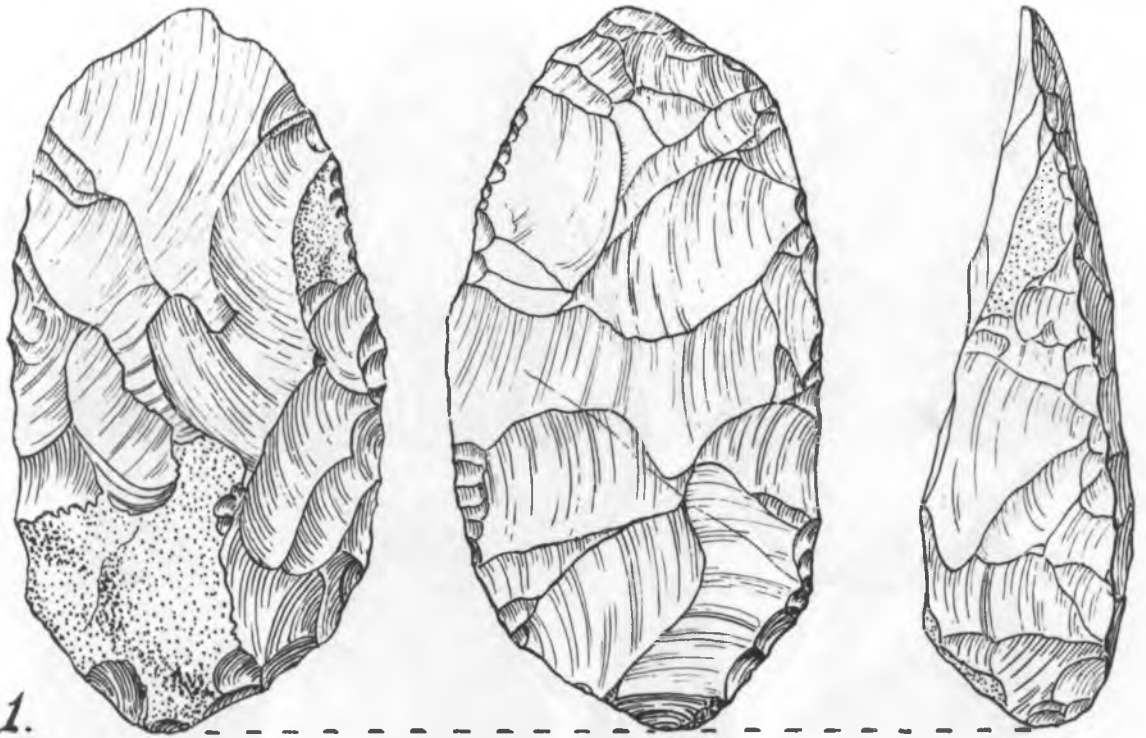
**No. 17.** A very small ovate piece of ivory patinated glossy flint. One face has been damaged by either frost or fire. From the Pintmere Pond site.

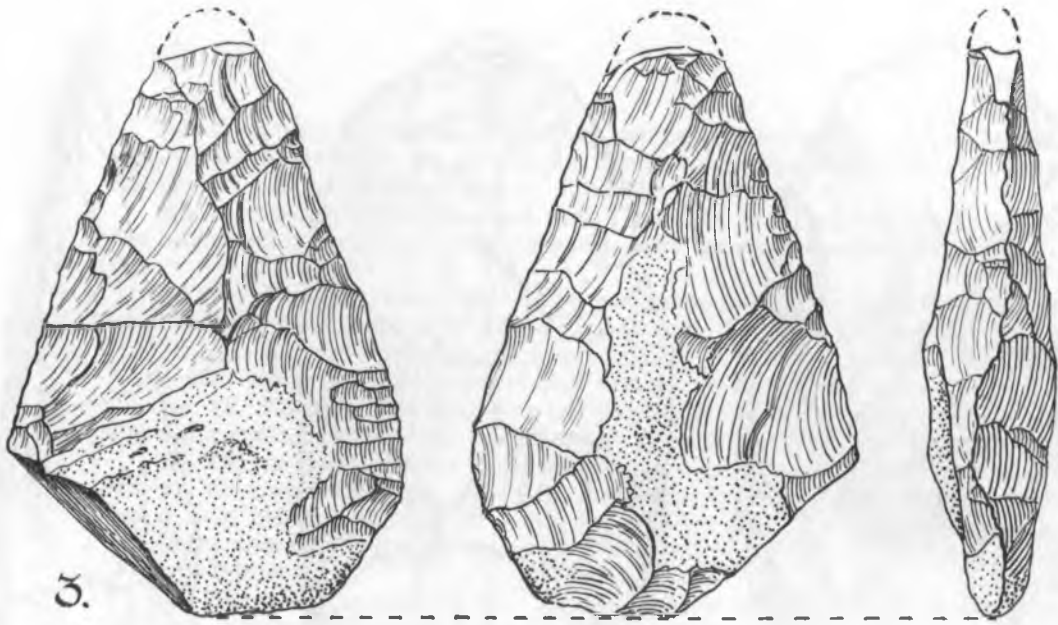
**No. 18.** A flake with thick butt and one edge trimmed for cutting. Ivory patination. From the Gallops site.

Numerous flakes patinated and ice bleached like the hand-axes have been found on both the sites mentioned but are not figured here. Two fire crackled flints like the typical "pot boilers", but ice bleached and patinated *after* the fire crackling, have been found on the Pintmere Pond site. These are distinct from the numerous neolithic or later "pot boilers" which are abundant. A large, flat ochreous quartzite pebble found on the Pintmere Pond site has been used as a hammer stone at one end and a rubbing stone at the other but whether this use dates from paleolithic times or later is difficult to say, as the hard quartzite would remain unaffected by drastic climatic changes. Another hammer stone from this site bleached and patinated like the hand-axes may be assumed to be paleolithic.

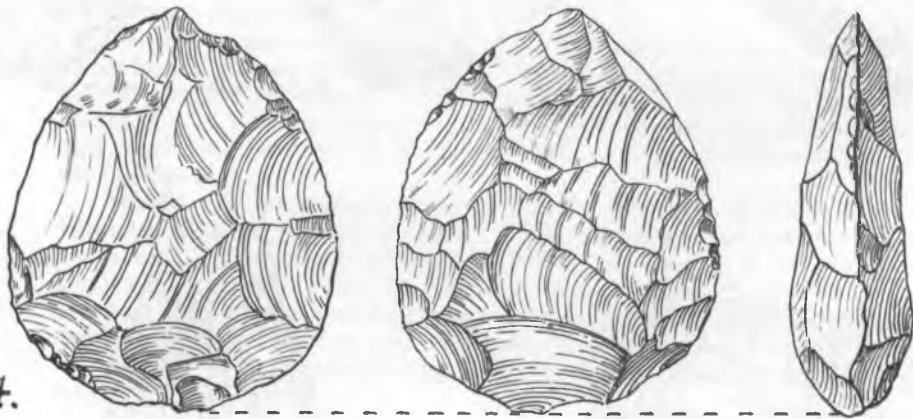
#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to Mr. John Wymer of Reading Museum for help and observation on the sites, and also to Mr. W. F. Rankine and Mr. A. W. G. Lowther for their advice and criticism. [Mrs. Easton of Hunters Hall, Tadworth, who has found several Acheulian hand-axes and ovates at the above sites, has kindly submitted these for examination, but not in time to be described here.—A.W.G.L.]





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10.



11.



12.

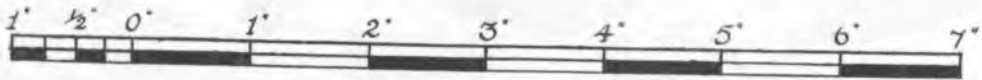
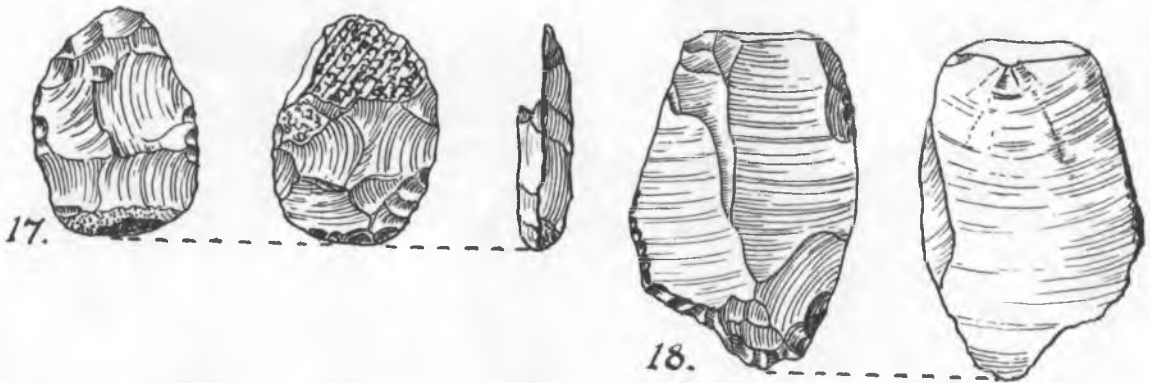
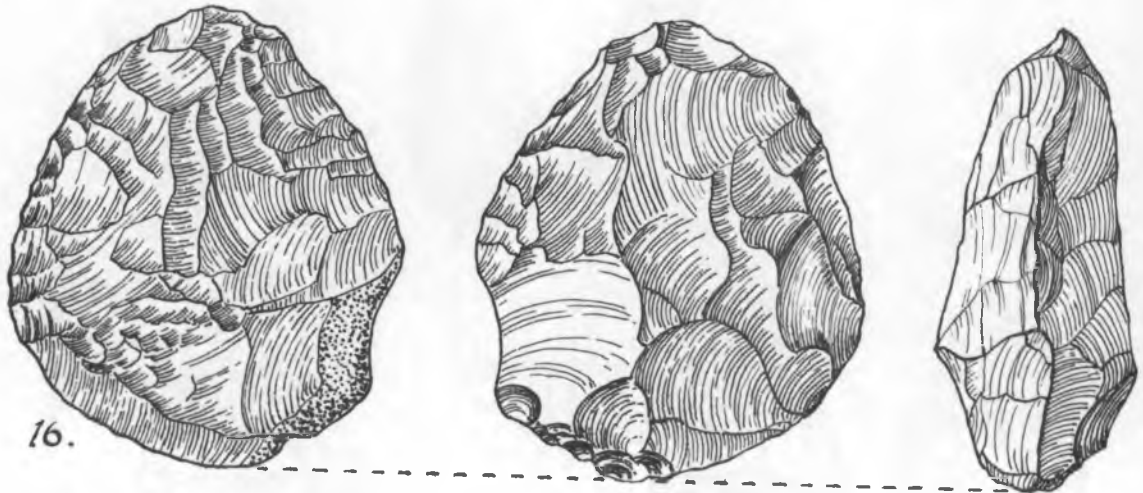
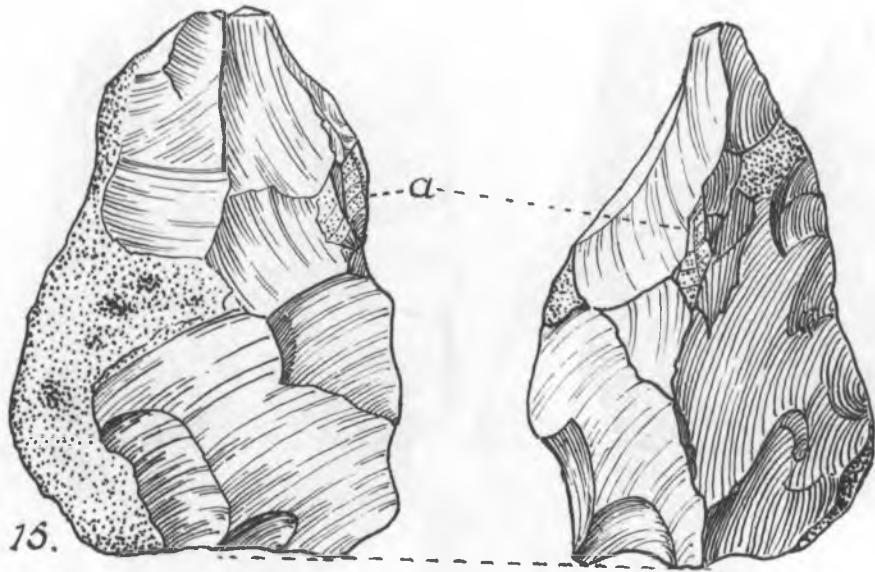


13.



14.



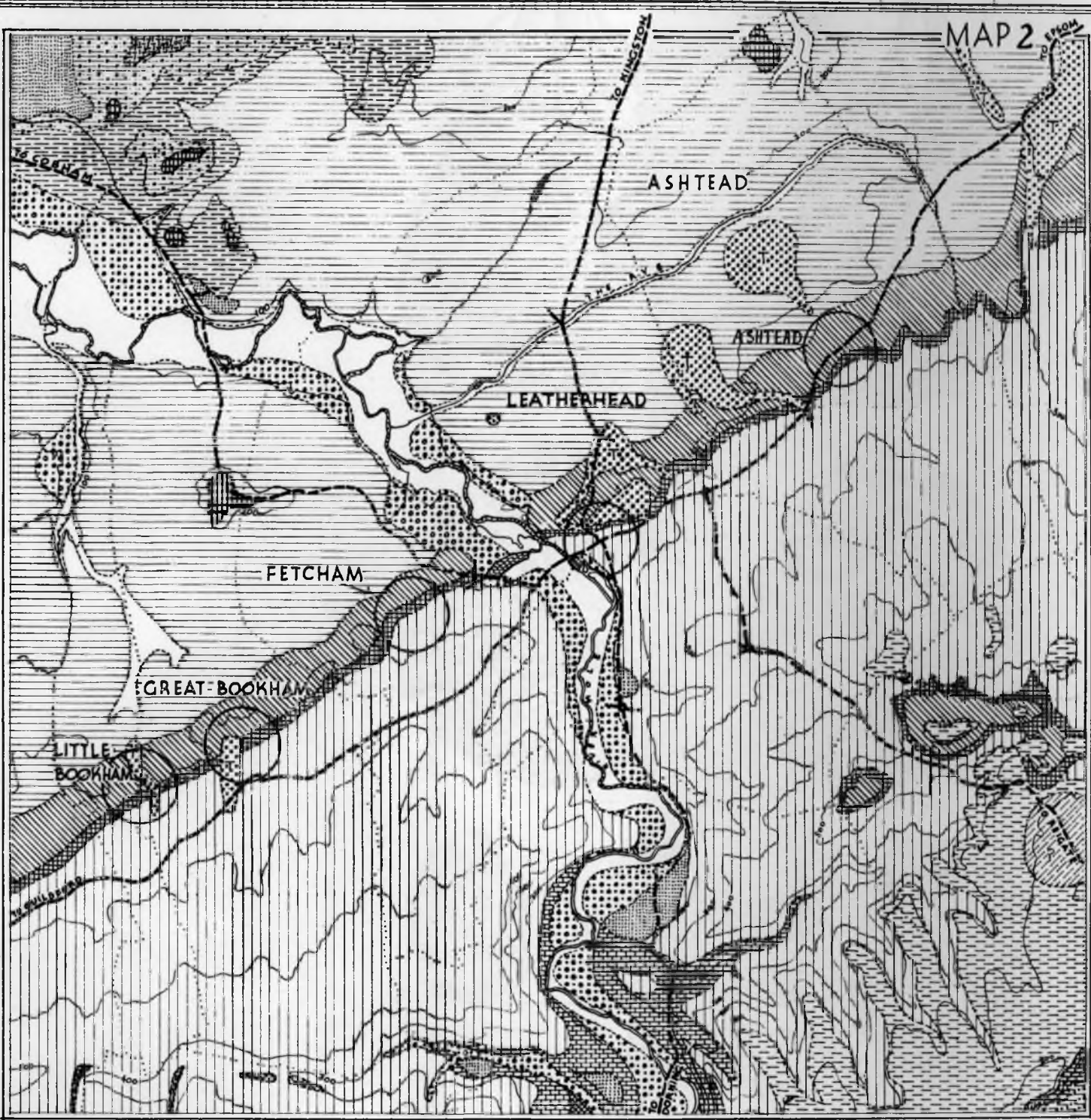




REPRODUCED FROM THE  
ORDNANCE SURVEY  
MAP WITH THE SANCTION  
OF THE CONTROLLER  
OF H. M. STATIONERY  
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- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | ALLUVIUM                                  |
|  | DRY VALLEY GRAVEL                         |
|  | LOW TERRACE                               |
|  | UPPER TERRACE                             |
|  | TABLE GRAVEL                              |
|  | PLATEAU GRAVEL                            |
|  | BRICHEARTH                                |
|  | BRACKLESHAM BEDS                          |
|  | BRUSHOT BEDS                              |
|  | CLAYGATE BEDS                             |
|  | LONDON CLAY                               |
|  | READING BEDS                              |
|  | THANET BEDS                               |
|  | UPPER CHALK                               |
|  | MIDDLE CHALK                              |
|  | LOWER CHALK                               |
|  | CLAY WITH FLINTS                          |
|  | DEPOSITS OF DOUBTFUL AGE (T. PLEISTOCENE) |

- PRESENT MAIN ROADS.
- ..... PARISH BOUNDARIES.
- NUCLEI OF HABITATION SHOWN
- NUCLEI OF HABITATION RINGED.



After 3,000 B.C. the climate became colder and drier and it is probable that the forest cover on the well-drained chalk became less dense. The elm and the lime gradually disappeared from the woodlands and clearings developed where the old trees fell and there was no regeneration. So we find the earliest Neolithic settlements on the uplands of the chalk where it was possible to clear already partially thinned areas and to grow barley and other crops. On the London Clay the mixed oak-alder thickets on the low ground and the oak-hornbeam on the higher were still impenetrable.

The transition from the Bronze to the Iron Age, roughly about 500 B.C., coincided with another climatic change when the rainfall increased but the winters were warmer. This led to a change in the composition of the woodlands. The warmer winters favoured the spread of beech over the chalk uplands and the increase in rainfall the greater development of mixed oak and alder on the clays. There is definite evidence that by 200 B.C. the chalk uplands had been substantially cleared of forest and were used for grazing domestic animals. From that time onwards the influence of man became greater and greater as his needs of food and fuel increased.

### A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY—Pt. III

By JOHN HARVEY, F.S.A.

**T**HE GENERATION of Bookham's inhabitants born within about 20 years on either side of A.D. 1300 is the first known to us by name. Earlier records yield a few isolated individuals, but of the householders in the second quarter of the fourteenth century it is possible to compile almost a complete directory. This is due in part to the earliest taxation assessment for Surrey, that of 1332<sup>1</sup>, but mainly to the survival of the very detailed registers of Abbot John de Rutherwyk of Chertsey, and especially to the abstract of Court Rolls of the Abbey Manors from 1327 to 1347, now forming Lansdowne Manuscript No. 434 in the British Museum.

Rutherwyk, who had been a monk of Chertsey, became abbot in 1307 and ruled for 40 years; the period of his abbacy was one of great activity, and he not only re-organized the finances and administration of the monastic estates, but was also a great builder. From his cartulary<sup>2</sup>, companion to the register of his courts, we know of many of his works, yet one of the most important is omitted, his rebuilding of the chancel of Great Bookham Church. The style of the windows would almost certainly have placed this within his long reign, but the exact year, 1341, is recorded by the Latin inscription in Lombardic capitals which still survives. The chancel and its dedicatory inscription together form Bookham's most impressive monument of the past, but we have bitterly to regret the loss of the whole of the original glazing, probably the finest and the most costly part of the work. Of stained glass of Rutherwyk's time in the Surrey churches which belonged to Chertsey Abbey, nothing now remains except small fragments in tracery at Horley and Thorpe. The inscription now beneath the east window was on the north wall when recorded by Elias Ashmole at his visit to Great Bookham Church on 15th October, 1659<sup>3</sup>.

Several Vicars of Great Bookham of the time are known to us: William of Sutton in 1314; five years later William of Geddyng, at whose resignation in 1320 Geoffrey of Sutton was instituted; and in 1324 Thomas le Blount, who may have survived until the Black Death, when Richard Palmere and William of Blaston both appear in the year 1349. Thomas le Blount may have been related to Stephen le Blount, the contemporary Rector of Leatherhead, who died in April 1340<sup>4</sup>, but most of these early clergy are shadowy

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  2. British Museum, Lansdowne MS. 435.
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## A CARTOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE AREA

### II. GEOLOGY AND VEGETATION

AS STATED in our last issue it had been the intention this year to publish two maps, one geological, and one of the early vegetation. Among the factors which have precluded the production of the vegetation map is the difficulty of determining the probable limits and variations, on the chalklands in particular. We have, however, elsewhere in this issue a short article by Dr. Topping which fulfils our purpose and which, read with Captain Lowther's note on the geology of the district (also elsewhere in this issue) and the geological map, should give a picture of the area as known to early man.

In this issue we publish the geological map. To assist identification the probable centres of original habitation are shown ringed. The centre of each ring is situated respectively, reading from right to left at: Ashtead Crossroads at Woodfield Lane; the crossroads in the centre of Leatherhead; the south end of The Street, Fetcham; the crossroads at Great Bookham church; Preston Cross for Little Bookham.

To set out the discovered relics of early man as he traversed this area or dwelt there awhile will be the object of our next article and map.

*To be continued*

### A NOTE ON THE GEOLOGY OF THE LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT OF SURREY

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

THIS NOTE is intended to serve as an explanation to the Geological Map published in this part of the *Proceedings* and not as any full study of the subject. For the latter, members are advised to consult such works as *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of England and Wales* (obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office); the *Proceedings of the Geologists Association*; or the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* (relevant parts contain articles on the various formations and their fossils). Of the *Memoirs*, Vol. III—Of the Cretaceous Rocks of Britain, i.e., that dealing with the Upper Chalk—is essential for this particular area.

It will be seen from the map that, in the main, our area consists of chalk forming the subsoil of the south-eastern half, and clay, mostly the London Clay, of the north-western half. A thin belt consisting of clay and sand (Thanet Sand, and the mottled clay of the Reading Beds) intervenes, and it is on this belt that Leatherhead and the villages of Ashtead, Fetcham, Great and Little Bookham, and Effingham (the last just outside the area) are situated.

The chalk (the so-called Upper Chalk is the only part of it to be seen in the various pits in our area \*) forming the North Downs, dips fairly steeply in a north-westerly direction, passing beneath the basin of the river Thames and re-appearing on the north side of London. The folding of the strata that produced this dip took place before the Reading and Thanet beds were formed, and it was in a sort of inland estuary that they, and then the London Clay on top of them, were laid down.

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\*Though the Middle and Lower Chalk are exposed in the extreme south, in the Mole cutting, and just below the Escarpment (S.E. corner of map).

The different regions, or zones as they are termed, into which the chalk can be divided for purposes of study, are identified and named after the dominant species of fossils prevailing in each zone. Thus, for our area, the following zones are present, in descending order, viz:—

1. The Zone of *Marsupites*;
2. The Zone of *Micraster coranguinum*.

These are the only two zones to be exposed in any of the chalk pits, though the underlying zones are occasionally exposed in the course of well-sinking or boring. Thus of the chalk exposed in either of the two main pits at Ashtead (that at The Warren and that, at the east side of the park, known as Abbotts Pit) the uppermost 20 or 30 feet belongs to zone 1, and contains numerous specimens of the hexagonal plates which went to form a *crinoid* or “sea-lily” known as *Marsupites testudinarius*, while the remainder of the exposure belongs to zone 2, in which the heart-shaped sea-urchin known as *Micraster coranguinum* is plentiful. Three zones which should occur above our zone 1 are absent in this part of the country and must have been removed during the vast period of erosion both before and after the formation of the overlying “Tertiary” deposits (the Thanet and Woolwich and Reading deposits) as well as the much later erosion which took place during the various phases (four main periods of extreme cold with intervening warm periods) of the so-called Ice Age.

The Chalk was, as is well known, formed beneath the sea and at a great depth, and this is exemplified by the fossils to be obtained from it, of which a list of the main types collected from the different zones of the Upper Chalk of Surrey is given on pp. 180–182 of the *Memoirs* mentioned above.

As to the “Tertiaries”, the extent to which they have been denuded from the area can be appreciated from such substantial patches of them as have been left behind, forming so-called “outliers”; as that at Headley forming Oyster Hill on the north side of the village. The chief fossil, one which has been the cause of the name given to the hill mentioned, is a large species of oyster, found up to 8 inches in diameter, called *Ostrea bellovacina*, which is here present as an extensive oyster bed in the Thanet sand, just beneath the overlying mottled clay or Reading beds, of which two deposits this hill is formed. Such outliers are not common, but there is another one at Carshalton in the grounds of Queen Mary’s Hospital.

The London Clay, the next overlying stratum to be considered, forms the hilly and once densely wooded area stretching northwards and comprising the whole of the north and north-westerly part of the area covered by our map. In places it is, however, blanketed by patches, or extensive stretches, of river gravels, alluvium and sand—mostly due to the River Mole and its varying channels or courses, but others deposited by streams which once flowed off the Downs. The London Clay consists of a dark brown or greyish clay with (as those who assisted in the excavations at *The Mounts* will remember) septarian nodules of clayey limestone. Where this clay has been subjected to weathering action, i.e., the uppermost part for a considerable depth (about 20 feet), it has changed colour and become of a yellow or yellow-brown tint.

On the London Clay, and confined to the north-west corner of our map, are the so-called Claygate Beds, alternating layers of sand and clay which pass up into the Bagshot Sands and the Bracklesham Beds which (present in our area only as one small patch) form part of the Bagshot series, and consist of laminated sand and clay beds containing numerous species of marine shells and other fossils.

Of the remaining geological deposits, the river gravels, forming terraces were deposited by the river Mole, and by its one-time tributaries, at varying heights according to the varying size and nature of the river from the various glacial and inter-glacial periods

of the Ice Age, down to comparatively recent times when the Alluvium in the river valley was deposited, largely in mesolithic times, or just after them, as shown by the contained implements found recently at the site just south of Leatherhead described in these *Proceedings* (Vol. I, part 6).

Finally, as to the "Clay with Flints" which occurs so extensively on the top of the chalk, especially to the south, in the extensive area belonging to the National Trust at Box Hill, stretching irregularly inland from the edge of the chalk escarpment and joining with the plateau gravels of Headley Heath; these deposits are apparently of the Pleistocene period and contemporary with the Netley Heath Deposits and Plateau Gravels which exist to the west. Like them, they are probably of marine formation and should contain marine fossils if not so extensively denuded, weathered, and affected by extremes of the Ice Age as they have been. In places, as used to be visible in gravel and sand pits on Headley Heath, their material has been let down into so-called "pipes" and "swallow-holes" in the underlying chalk due to solution of the chalk and its being carried away downwards under excessive water action, in the same manner in which the famous swallow-holes in and along the bed of the river Mole originally came into being, and became a cause of wonderment to all generations when it was realized that, as Camden puts it, "here the river runneth underground."

## THE VEGETATION OF THE LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT IN PREHISTORIC TIMES

By Mrs. M. P. TOPPING, Ph.D.

**T**HE CHANGES in the vegetation since the glacial epoch have been marked and various but the present article deals only with the position since around 3,000 B.C. and which was probably little different from the period of the earliest known occupation in the area, c. 4,000 B.C., by mesolithic man (see Vol. I, No. 6).

The two main factors determining the vegetation were the climate and the types of soil. Unlike the present plant cover, it was not influenced by man either directly or indirectly. While it is impossible to describe the vegetation at this period in any detail one can, from specialist studies, suggest the general outline.

It is likely that the whole district was densely wooded with no open heaths or downs. From 6,000-3,000 B.C. the country as a whole had experienced a climate which was wetter and warmer than that of to-day. This is known as the Atlantic Period during which the light and porous soils were wet enough to support tree growth while some of the low-lying ground was below the water-table and supported bog and fen vegetation.

The high ground of the chalk and the higher levels of what is marked "London clay" on the geological map (elsewhere in this issue) were covered with mixed deciduous forest. Where the subsoil was chalk this rich forest contained warmth-loving trees such as the lime, but where acid soils overlay the chalk, as on Headley Heath and Ranmore Common, there was probably more birch. On the clay lands there was a preponderance of oak, thinning out into thickets of alder by the sides of the streams.

The steep banks and cliffs above the River Mole were covered with dense scrub vegetation of mainly box and yew, much as it is to be seen on the steep Box Hill face to-day. Indeed, this wood may be a relict of the old primeval forest cover. The Mole was probably wider and deeper than in present times and its flood plain and those of its tributaries probably marsh and fen. The sedges and rushes and other marsh plants were the same species as are found in similar situations to-day.

After 3,000 B.C. the climate became colder and drier and it is probable that the forest cover on the well-drained chalk became less dense. The elm and the lime gradually disappeared from the woodlands and clearings developed where the old trees fell and there was no regeneration. So we find the earliest Neolithic settlements on the uplands of the chalk where it was possible to clear already partially thinned areas and to grow barley and other crops. On the London Clay the mixed oak-alder thickets on the low ground and the oak-hornbeam on the higher were still impenetrable.

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Several Vicars of Great Bookham of the time are known to us: William of Sutton in 1314; five years later William of Geddyng, at whose resignation in 1320 Geoffrey of Sutton was instituted; and in 1324 Thomas le Blount, who may have survived until the Black Death, when Richard Palmere and William of Blaston both appear in the year 1349. Thomas le Blount may have been related to Stephen le Blount, the contemporary Rector of Leatherhead, who died in April 1340<sup>4</sup>, but most of these early clergy are shadowy

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  2. British Museum, Lansdowne MS. 435.
  3. Bodleian Library, Oxford, Ashmole MS. 1137, ff. 14-19.
  4. Westminster Abbey Muniments, No. 25348.

figures. Of Little Bookham we know only that Walter de Geddyng was Rector in 1308, while William de Northstock and Henry atte Hethe succeeded in 1349: it would seem that no fewer than four priests died in Bookham during the plague year.

At the taxation of 1332, 41 inhabitants were assessed, of whom 16 were described as villeins of the Abbot of Chertsey, and four were assessors of the tax, while of the remaining 21 Peter Leuwyn was to pay 4s. 8d. for "all in his keeping", but who these might be is not clear. From the Chertsey registers many more tenants' names are forthcoming, and the total of those who were occupying land in Bookham in 1332 was at least 80, and probably considerably more when allowance has been made for those who held of the subsidiary manors of Little Bookham and Eastwick. This shows that the number of different holdings was already about as large as it was in 1615, when the earliest plan of Great Bookham parish shows a total of 85 inhabited sites, inclusive of the manor-houses and vicarage; to these about 15 in Little Bookham must be added. In 1674 is the earliest precise record of householders, the Hearth Tax which shows a total of 106 in the two parishes.

Inasmuch as there are records of new cottages being built upon the waste in the sixteenth century, it seems likely that the population had dropped considerably at the Black Death, and was only just reaching its old level 250 years later. Certainly Bookham's prosperity receded, and Abbot Rutherwyk must be counted fortunate in the moment of his death, only two years before the great pestilence which was to undo much of his work.

Among Bookham landowners and householders whose names bulk largely in Rutherwyk's time, there are few belonging to the gentry. Sir John Dabernoun, owner of the sub-manor of Eastwick, lived at Stoke, though John de Slyfield (died 1328) and his son Nicholas were no doubt resident owners of the medieval house on the site of Slyfield Place. The Polesden estate, which had been held by John de Polesdene at the end of the thirteenth century, was in the hands of William de Croft by 1335, and presumably three years earlier, when his assessment for taxation, 6s. 7½d., was the highest in the parish. In several cases, freeholders also held in villeinage, there being no clear distinction of status, but merely of tenure: such were William Bonet, Richard Fyg, and Peter le Mulleward.

The greater customary tenants included the family of de Baggedene, holders of Bagden Farm, the Godwyns and Sweyns of Eastwick, the large families of Balderay and Leuwyn, and John atte Sole, occupier of Sole Farm, which in 1337 he surrendered to his son Thomas, while other property went to a daughter Agnes. Inheritance of the right to land was of such importance that the husband of an heiress, even of copyholds, often assumed his wife's name; in this way Adam Foty became known as Noreys after his marriage to Alice Noreys about 1330, and Robert atte Hulle as Robert Eliot when he had acquired the land which had belonged to Richard Eliot by marrying Emma, the latter's daughter.

Cottagers were numerous. A few cottages were freehold, but most were customary, and in one case the rent was a serjeanty: in 1324 Thomas le Smyth had been granted the tenement called "le Tras" by the service of making and repairing the ironwork of two ploughs with the lord's iron and steel, and shoeing two carthorses and four draught beasts with the lord's iron and nails; nine years later he was granted "le Budel (bothy, hut) in le Lane" as well, by the further service of finding the iron and steel for all the lord's ploughs in Bookham, and shoeing all the oxen with his own iron. These oxen were of course those used for ploughing. Space will not permit enumeration of all the inhabitants, but many of their names are of interest. Some derive from the land they farmed, as in the cases of Baggedene and Slyfeld; others from the places where they dwelt: Bythewood, atte Felde, atte Hale (*halh*, a corner), in le Lane, atte Lynde (*lind*, a lime-tree), atte Putte (*pit*), atte Sole (*sol*, a muddy pool); some from their occupations, Thomas le Carpenter, Gilbert le Gardyner, John le Mulleward (mill-keeper), William le Shephurde, Walter and Thomas le Smyth, Henry and Peter le Webbe (weaver), and William, Thomas,

and John le Wodeward, foresters; and a few from their places of origin: Peter le Irisshe, Henry de Kent, and Thomas Stonyld (or Stovyld) called "de Kent". Some of these had already become true surnames, but there was still no arbitrary rule, and the same man is described differently on various occasions.

In contrast to the rich documentation of the early fourteenth century, little has survived from the next 150 years of Bookham's history. The court rolls have perished, very few deeds have survived, and the earliest will is of 1485, that year of Bosworth Field which in common estimation put an end to the Middle Ages. There is little doubt that Bookham suffered severely from the Black Death, and that economically it never fully recovered. The weekly market disappeared and the importance of the north-south road linking Cobham to Dorking declined. Once it had been found more profitable by Chertsey Abbey to lease its manors as separate farms for money rents, the route from Chertsey to Horley through Cobham, Bookham, and Dorking lost its former significance. No longer were the villages parts of a system which embraced them all: each had to sink or swim by itself.

Simultaneously with this development of leaseholds in the chief manor, the lesser manors assumed more the character of the country gentleman's residence. In spite of foreign wars and pestilence at home, the fourteenth century was an age of civilization in England, and law and order were well maintained. In the latter half of the century the outstanding figure in Bookham was Nicholas Slyfield. Succeeding to the Slyfield estate as a boy in 1329, he lived until c. 1395. In 1360 he was one of the Collectors of Tax for Surrey, in 1368 added to Slyfield another large freehold, sat in the Parliament of 1382-83, and from 1389 was on the county Commission of the Peace. Towards the end of his life he was in close touch with William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester and ex-Lord Chancellor. Slyfield was a trustee for the Dabernon estates and must have been a great influence in the neighbourhood. He may well have been the chief promoter of the building of a fine new porch of two storeys on the south side of Great Bookham Church.

This porch, now sadly mutilated, was in its time a building of considerable beauty as well as practical value. The twelfth-century nave with its narrow aisles already looked old-fashioned beside the splendid new chancel of 1341, and the parishioners would not wish to be outdone by the Abbot, their landlord and rector. The use of the porch both for religious and secular purposes was considerable. The opening of the baptismal service took place there, and so did the whole of a medieval marriage, as we are reminded by Chaucer's *Wife of Bath*: "housbondes at chirche-dore she hadde fyve." The public notices still posted on the door are a survival of the porch's use for many civil purposes, from the public payment of legacies and execution of deeds to the sitting of the Coroner's Court. For such uses it was convenient to have a separate room, and this was one of the reasons for the two-storied design. But besides such occasional use, the upper floor was frequently the village schoolroom, where children were taught the "3 R.s." by the Vicar or a chantry priest. There is some evidence that such a school existed in Great Bookham.

This porch dates from the last quarter of the fourteenth century, as do two charming windows inserted in Little Bookham Church, one of which survives in the north wall of the nave, while the other, now blocked, is on the south of the chancel. The next building to survive is the Slyfield Chapel, added on the south of Great Bookham Church as a family chantry towards the middle of the fifteenth century. Traces of its separate priest's door may still be seen. The date is roughly fixed by the likeness of the work to that of Lingfield Church, known to have been rebuilt soon after 1431. At this period the Slyfields were at the height of their power, and acquired the great Polesden estate at the south end of Bookham in addition to their own. Thomas Slyfield (c. 1410, died 1470), who figures extensively in the *History of Parliament*, was an M.P. for Surrey in 1450-51 and married



an heiress, Anne Weston. Their son William Slyfield (c. 1440, died c. 1485) had a distinguished career as a barrister, King's secretary, and diplomat, ending his life as Treasurer of Calais. His father at the end of his life had resold Polesden to the Norbury family, and they in turn built a chapel on the north side of Great Bookham Church, whose windows survive in the nineteenth-century aisle.

No such enlargements took place at Little Bookham, where the old south aisle actually disappeared during this period. The lords of that manor were descendants of the Braose family, and it passed from hand to hand in confused sequence between 1395 and 1498. From 1480 until 1498 Little Bookham belonged to Thomas Greville who adopted the surname of Cokese, that of the grandmother through whom he inherited the manor. He seems to have been resident and may have built the grand timbered barn which still exists.

The fifteenth century saw a return of turbulence in civil life, and the few records of Bookham inhabitants of the time suggest local disturbances. In 1434 John Bowet, esquire, and Thomas Slyfield, esquire, both of Great Bookham, were required to take an oath not to maintain peace-breakers; in 1450 the general pardon to supporters of Jack Cade's rebellion includes all the inhabitants of Great and Little Bookham, specifying by name Richard Baker, "laborer" of the latter, and Stephen Stylewell and Nicholas Bowet, "husbondmen", and Bartholomew atte Style, "smyth" of the former; in 1467 twenty-six persons, among them Thomas Slyfeld "gentilman" and Richard Kyng "husbondman" of Great Bookham, received pardon for having conspired to cause Richard atte Welle of Leatherhead to be wrongly imprisoned for house-breaking and horse-stealing. Elsewhere Sir Thomas Malory, quite rightly imprisoned for his crimes, was writing the first classic of English prose: the times were out of joint.

**Copies of the Historical Topographical Map of the Parishes of Great and Little Bookham, prepared by Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., to illustrate these articles on Bookham history, are available from the Hon. Secretary of the Society, price 3 shillings each. Superior prints (black ink on cartridge paper), 4 shillings and sixpence each.**

## PEN SKETCHES OF OLD HOUSES IN THIS DISTRICT

### 7.—Nos, 24/26 CHURCH STREET, LEATHERHEAD

*(anciently known as Waytes)*

**T**HE PREVIOUS ARTICLES in this series have been concerned with large houses inhabited in former times by people of substance much greater than the average, and it is natural to find among them some who have made their mark in national affairs. On this occasion we are presenting the architectural and historical record of a comparatively small house, one-time copyhold of the manor of Thorncroft, inhabited throughout the centuries by more humble folk. This building is now threatened with demolition, and a record is obviously desirable. The threat to the smaller domestic architecture of former times increases each year, and though our old towns and villages still retain many examples, little attention is paid to them and little is done to ensure the preservation of the most interesting specimens. No intelligent person will deny the beauty and interest of some of the great houses of England, nor grudge the efforts which are being made to preserve them; but at the same time it remains true that they are not representative of the main stream of English social history. Whereas the copyhold or small freehold houses of our towns and villages were the homes of the backbone of English society, many of the great

houses of England represent one-time privilege in its most blatant form; though the gulf between them is happily narrower in this district than in others. Yet, in an age which prides itself on egalitarian principles, Government grants are forthcoming for the preservation of great mansions, whilst the smaller ancient houses are allowed to disappear in ever increasing numbers. This may be partly due to the fact that these smaller houses have in many cases become so drab and unattractive to the casual eye that it is only the expert who realizes their significance. It is almost impossible to walk down an English street and date the buildings by the appearance of their facades; yet often behind a cement-rendered front lies early work of great and unusual interest. We have illustrated the present article with two sketches; one by Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., depicting the probable original appearance of the Church Street house, the other by Mr. C. J. Songhurst, showing it as it is to-day. It is probable that most of the timber frame depicted by Mr. Harvey still exists beneath the present stucco rendering, and the restoration of the building could be carried out if the will and the means to do it were forthcoming. It should be made clear that the following account of the building was written by Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., and not by myself.

F. B. BENDER.

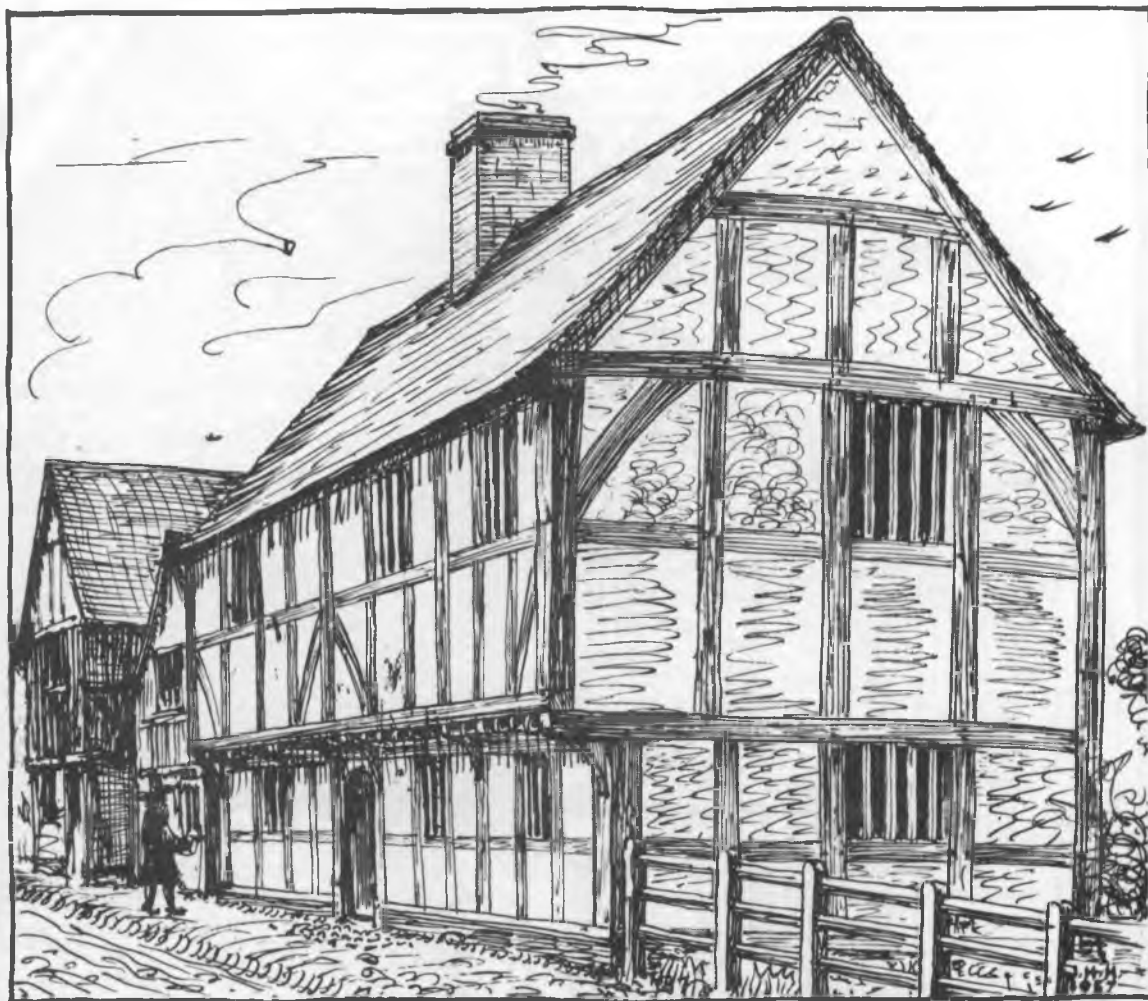
**Position.** The site lies on the west side of Church Street, some distance north of The Mansion and a little over 100 yards south of the intersection of Church Street with High Street. The house stands at the south-east corner of a large garden of over  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre, whose trees form a fine background to the southerly view from the street.

**Description.** The building consists of a timber-framed structure, some 50 feet in length by 20 feet in width, with its long dimension lying along the street frontage; to this have been added projecting wings on the back or western face. The ground storey on the street front and at the north end has been built up in brick, most of the surfaces are roughcast, and the upper part of the north end hung with old "fish-scale" weather tiles. Beneath the northern part of the building (No. 24) is an extensive cellar, the east and south walls of which are of early rubble masonry. The staircase down to this cellar is closed by a fine early door of vertical moulded boards hung on original T-hinges. Above, in an addition projecting from the original house, is a staircase with a good moulded handrail and turned balusters, leading to the first floor, from which a winding stair continues to the attics, lit by dormers in the roof. The roofs of the main range and south-western wing are of good modern plain tiles, and that of the north-western wing of slate.

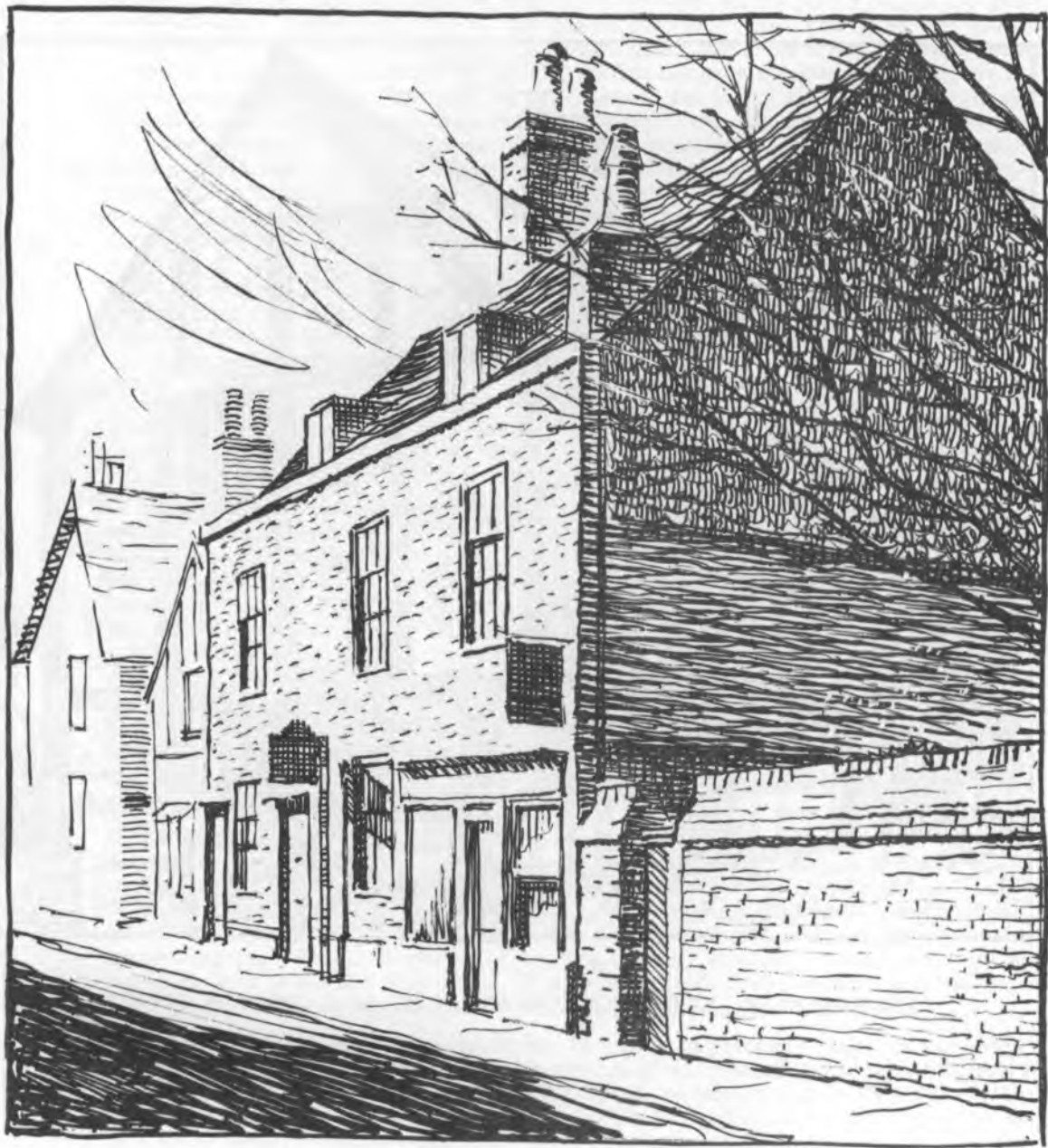
Internally, most of the doors, firegrates, and fittings are of *circa* 1750-1850, but this comparatively modern work conceals important early features. Among these the most noteworthy is the great fireplace in the southern ground-floor room of No. 24, whose oak bressumer, worked to a chamfered four-centred arch, still survives and can in part be seen in the western cupboard (which may take the place of an earlier bread-oven). Beams of heavy section support the first floor, but are covered with modern plaster or match-boarding. Similar timbering of heavy section is, however, exposed internally at wall-plate level in the first floor of No. 26 at the south end of the building, and the main angle-post of the north-west corner (of No. 24) still stands.

In the north ground-floor room of No. 24 (now a hairdresser's shop) the main east-west cross-beam is supported by posts, the eastern of which stands some three feet inside the frontage line of the house, and vertically above the eastern wall of the cellar. This, taken with the fact that the house projects some three feet to the east (i.e. into the pavement of Church Street) from the frontage of No. 28, adjacent to the south, suggests that the front of the house was originally jettied out over the street, a yard of whose width was at a later date absorbed into the building.

In No. 26 there is a good mahogany staircase handrail with thin square balusters, and panelled doors of good design.



LEATHERHEAD: SKETCH RESTORATION OF 24/26 CHURCH STREET



24/26 CHURCH STREET, 1957

combe on its eastern side. This characteristic of the plateau can best be seen by standing on the Pebblecombe road three hundred yards south of the windmill on Banstead Heath and looking southwards towards Pebblecombe. The fact that the area is mainly a saucer-like depression is particularly important. The surrounding countryside is higher than the centre in the North, South, and West, and rises on each side to heights above the 550 ft. contour line. Across the centre of the plateau is a dry combe which is known as Hogden Bottom where it crosses the Kingswood district. This dry combe has a slight fall only, across Banstead Heath, from which it runs out into the Chipstead valley. Along its bottom is a spread of dry valley gravel and on the gently sloping sides the many undulating heaps of clay with flints, gravel and chalk have probably been caused by solifluxion (earth-creeping) during the ice age. Further study of the geological map provides us with the clue as to the origin of this combe. It will be seen that it is one of several which once formed the headstream system of the River Wandle and this probably when the Wealden dome was elevated above the North Downs. When, in Miocene times, the erosion and sinking of the Weald cut off the supply of water from these streams they relied upon the few local springs which drained the gravels overlying the plateau clay. Two of these springs still exist and a third has only dried up in the past forty years. Such spring water and also surface water from melting snow and ice would flow across the clay until it came to the exposed chalk in the sides and bottom of the combe, where its force would gradually be spent as it percolated into the chalk. This surface flow and percolation can still be observed on the Heath in times of very heavy rain and even more dramatically on Headley Heath where in a heavy storm a considerable volume of water coming off the top of the Heath rapidly disappears when it falls into a chalk combe. We have, then, an area from which very little could have been swept away by ice, snow, and flood water during the ice age. Accumulated snow and ice could not have slipped from the plateau because of its retaining shape unless it had built up to a very considerable thickness and attained the proportions of a glacier, when it would have swept away the higher ground on one side completely. There is no sign of such glacier action south of the Thames valley and I am ready to conclude that much of the surface material in the nature of rock and soil remains more or less *in situ* from periods before the last great glaciation. By surface material I mean anything that comprises the top two or three feet of soil. Careful examination of such material should produce evidence in support of my assumption.

To describe the district as a clay, with flints, area is a general description, but leaves out the various localized patches of the Netley Heath type of gravel which are found scattered over the Heath. Chert pebbles, some quartzite pebbles and pieces of ferruginous sandstone occur quite freely with the scattered flint debris and these must be considered as Wealden erratics from very early times. In places boulder flints are so thick one could easily describe the soil as "flints with clay". Ploughed fields are very stony indeed. The clay itself is very variable in texture and while it is very sticky in some places, in others it becomes sandy and loamy. Many of these boulder flints are cherty and contain crystalline inclusions, and a keen observer is soon aware of the fact that there is a large amount of fractured and shattered flint. This shattering and bursting of the flint has been caused by the freezing of water which has seeped into the fossil inclusions and then been subjected to very severe frost. Many pieces which have escaped frost shattering are deeply frost pitted all over. The fractured faces of such flints are frost bleached as well as deeply patinated and show the fine, thermal hair-like cracks due to intense freezing. This frost-bleached patina is unlike the patina to be found on the flints which lie on the surface of the chalk downs and which is often soft enough to be scraped with a knife. Some of the frost bleached material has the appearance and lustre of old ivory while other pieces have taken on a bluish slate grey to mauve colour, especially when wet. This peculiar mauvish tinge remains when the flint is dried and is probably due to some absorption of iron salts from the clay. Ochreous patination or staining is rare. Varying types of markings and

staining can be found on the pieces of flint and some of these may be due to lichen growths in sub-arctic conditions either preceding or following an ice age. Flint implements having the markings, patination and bleaching just described are as hard and sharp as when manufactured and show no signs of rolling or abrasion.

While patination in itself cannot be accepted as any criterion of age, when comparing one flint implement with another, there are one or two important features about worked flints from Walton and Banstead Heaths which are useful when attempting to put these into a chronological sequence. On searching this area for struck flint I soon found that considerable quantities of unpatinated or very slightly patinated post-paleolithic material could be picked up. This covers a period ranging from the mesolithic to the probable Bronze Age in technique, but most of it would appear to be of Neolithic date. Patination is rare on this later worked flint and never seems to go beyond a pale blue or slightly milky tinge. A bifacially worked, leaf-shaped arrow head of Neolithic type shows a pale blue, milky patina and a broken Acheulian hand-axe (not figured) shows the same patina on the broken surface. Measurement of the frost-bleached mauvish patina on this hand-axe shows a thickness of 1.5 mm. on one face and 3 mm. on the other. This hand-axe we may therefore assume lay on its thinly patinated face for a very considerable period and was subsequently broken in Neolithic times. Another flake has been removed from one corner of the butt in still more recent times and shows a black lustrous surface. This black lustrous appearance is typical of several scrapers of Bronze Age type from the Heath. We have therefore a broken hand-axe showing a chronological sequence of weathered surfaces from paleolithic, through mesolithic or neolithic times to Bronze Age or a little later. This may be taken as a typical sequence of the struck surface appearance of any worked flints from the clay and gravelly parts of the heath. A few neolithic pieces from Hogden Bottom which have been in contact with the chalk have the characteristic chalk downland patina and are not included in this classification. The first hand-axe I found on the heath was ice-bleached and patinated and showed the fine thermal fractures across its surface. Every hand-axe found since is identical in surface appearance and texture with the first. Therefore, unless an unpatinated example occurs which is undoubtedly paleolithic in technique, I am not prepared to accept as paleolithic any unpatinated flakes or pieces of worked flint which may be picked up on the heaths. Flakes patinated like the hand-axes and found on the same sites I am prepared to accept as paleolithic. Some of these which show signs of having been put to some use and not just left as hand-axe manufacturing rejects I have figured and described in the report.

The two main sites on which I have picked up paleoliths are:—

1. **Banstead Heath.** The field which lies directly to the south of Hogden Bottom and which is completely ringed by horse gallops. A small pond of clear water surrounded by dwarf willow is situated in the middle of this field. This is a spring site and the water drains from the gravel at the top of the rise. For convenience I will call this the Gallops site.

2. **Walton Heath.** The field which lies to the east of the Pebblecombe road just about 1 mile north of Pebblecombe. The 2½" Ordnance Survey Map marks a pond here which is called the Pintmere Pond. This pond is now dry, except in very wet weather, and is completely overgrown with willow and other shrubs. This I will call the Pintmere Pond site. Two hand-axes have been picked up elsewhere on the heaths. The first is that described in *S.A.C.*, Vol. LIV, and the other was found in a ploughed field on Chussex Plain, but both were found without any associated paleolithic flakes. Such odd ones we might expect to find anywhere in the area. As so much of the district is sealed off by thick heath and golf course, it is possible that denser concentrations of paleolithic material still lie undisturbed just beneath the surface.

**Date and Development.** The character of the great fireplace and chimney-stack, and of the visible parts of the timber framing, confirms the 16th century date of the structure suggested by its general proportions and by the appearance of a house on its site on plans of *circa* 1600 and of 1629. At a date probably in the 17th century a south-western wing was thrown out at the back, in brick, and in the mid-18th century a staircase in the angle between this wing and the main range. In this form the house appears on George Gwilt's large-scale plan of Leatherhead, surveyed in 1782, the north-western wing being later. By this time also it would seem that the ground floor had been extended eastwards to take in the part of the pavement beneath the overhanging upper storey. At some date early in the 19th century the house was divided into two tenements, and the two similar street doors and the staircase in No. 26 date from this period.

**History.** The house and its large garden were a copyhold of the Manor of Thorncroft, an estate in Leatherhead which has belonged to Merton College since 1268, six years before its removal from Malden to Oxford. Depositions made in 1551 in a dispute over the College's title show that the house was known as "Waytes" and that it had been bought some 50 years earlier (i.e. about 1500) by a certain John Westwood from Thomas Durdant; Westwood had remained in occupation until his death, after which his widow Joan continued in possession. In 1554 Robert Westwood of Wargrave, Berks., yeoman, released all his rights in the property, described as parcel of the Manor of Thorncroft, to Merton College. From that time the succession of copyholders can be traced in the College's surveys and court rolls. In 1629 the house was held by Robert Neale and in 1704 by John Clements; Mary Jeffs was admitted in 1750 and on her death in 1762 it passed to Amy Yarde, with licence to sublet for 21 years; in 1769 it formed part of the settlement made at the marriage of Amy Yarde to Reuben Ettie. Ettie, after his wife's death, surrendered in 1793 to Richard Belson, at whose death in 1807 it was bequeathed to Richard Whitehouse Jennings, who surrendered to James Sykes. Sykes died in 1817 leaving the property to John Sykes, who surrendered to James Roberts, still the holder in 1841 when the Tithe Award for Leatherhead was made. The actual occupier at that time was George Cooper. In 1843 Roberts surrendered to Jane Sparkes "one messuage or tenement, orchard, shop and yard formerly in the occupation of James Roberts", and on Jane Sparkes's death in 1869 it passed to Charles Alexander White and William Tewsley Welch as Trustees of her will.

It is not at present possible to relate the documented history of the house's owners and occupiers to its architectural development, but it is not unlikely that the main structure dates from *c.* 1555, after Merton College had obtained undisputed possession. Detailed study of the College's important series of account rolls would almost certainly bring to light much additional information.

**Evaluation.** The building has a double significance: partly on its own architectural merits as a specimen of development over the past four centuries, possessing in a high degree the beauties of traditional design and character; and also as a component part of the important approach from the south to the centre of Leatherhead.

The purely architectural value of the house has been recognized by its inclusion in the lists compiled by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, by the Surrey County Council, and by the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society and the Local History Society. Out of a total of 35 items listed in the town of Leatherhead, only seven contain work as old as the 16th century, and not all of these are of comparable beauty. Further, only one other of these buildings (Nos. 23/25 High Street) shares with the subject of the present report the historical advantage of appearing in the detailed archives of Merton College. Examples of minor domestic architecture for which full documentation exists are extremely rare.

## ASHTEAD AND ITS HISTORY—Pt. VIII\*

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

### The Early Stuart Period (1603-1660) and John Lawrence's Map of Ashtead (1638)

**S**OME DESCRIPTION of the Ashtead of 1638, as depicted by Lawrence in his survey, and for which purpose I have prepared the map figured here, is appropriate at this point. The original on which it is based, besides being to such a scale and with such small detail that it is not possible to reproduce it in a reduced form, is misleading to some in that it has the north point at the bottom of the sheet.

It will be seen that the Park had not come into being at this date, and in fact, it was only created after 1681, and by Sir Robert Howard who then acquired the Manor and who rebuilt the Manor-house and on a new site (that of the present and more modern building) at some distance south of that of the old one.

The north end of the Manor, with the "Commons or Waste Grounds" and the enclosed "Newton Wood, or The Coppice", was then much as it is at the present day. On this map there has been no attempt to show the many, narrow, strip-like holdings into which the various Common Fields ("The North Field", "South Field", etc.) were divided. The scale of the original was too small for this, but they are shown on a much larger map of the Manor dated 1802. Possibly, as was the case with other Manors, there were separate maps of these fields and their strips in the seventeenth century, but, if so, they have since been lost or destroyed.

The roads for which names have been inserted on the map, are seen to have borne different names from those of the present day. "Grigg's Lane" for "Epsom Road", "Hilder's Lane" for "Farm Lane", and "Marsh Lane" or "Club Lane" for "Barnett Wood Lane" are among the names that have vanished. The then main road to London was that "over the downs" (as it was named on the milestones of 1745) passing well to the south of Ashtead and avoiding the unmade trackway which then existed on the site of the present main road between Ashtead Village and the west boundary of the manor.

Since, at the time of writing (1951), the matter of the bounds of the manor and the ceremony of beating them is to the fore, I will recapitulate the bounds of Ashtead Manor as they are set out (apparently for this ceremony) in the top right-hand corner of Lawrence's map:—

"The boundary of the Manor of Ashteed. Beginneth at the end of Abbotts Lane where first a Ghospell is read + from thence through the middle of Abbotts Pitt and so along the Breach to Nutshambles w<sup>ch</sup> lyes against downe close. From thence into Cocox Lane + from thence to Tilley Lane end, from thence to the upper end of Knights feilds, from thence to the Southfeild of Ashteed, and so all along the hedge to Pibble Lane + And so along Cole Croft hedge. And to the highe way from alonge the highe way to River Crosse hill + from thence to linden bottome and so alonge the outsyde of Mr. Coles longe feilde unto the well belonging to Coles House + from thence alonge Barnard lane to the Marsh, and so to Fraudings, from alonge by the libertiee of Letherhead unto Maldin Common Corner + And so alonge by the liberties of Maldin unto a place called Woodcock Parke + And so alonge to Lanthorne greene neere to Epsom Well + And from thence to Lanthorns Corner + from thence by the side of Lanthorns to some Lands within Epsome called Sytus, the parambulation beinge thence upon Epsome syde untill you come to Abbotts Pitt lane and so to Abbotts Pitt where begun. + "

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\*The previous article was numbered IX in error. It was in fact No. VII. —ED.





**ASHTEAD IN 1638.**

BASED ON THE SURVEY, BY  
JOHN LAWRENCE, OF THAT DATE.

A.W.G.L., 1950.

## FIELD NAMES

- |                           |                            |                                    |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. "Chaffers Mead"        | 23. "Jealous Mead"         | 46. "Perry Croft" (Mr. John Pepys) |
| 2. "Rennams"              | 24. "Nine Acres"           | 47. "Sapres" "                     |
| 3. "Long Meadow"          | 25. "Jealous Mead"         | 48. "Gasson"                       |
| 4. "Rennam Coppes"        | 26. "Philpot Mead"         | 49. "Barbers Grove"                |
| 5. "Broadfield"           | 27. "Piggott Hay"          | 50. "Blakes"                       |
| 6. "Sheephouse field"     | 28. "Carter's Grove"       | 51. "Culver hay"                   |
| 7. "Pawns field"          | 29. — (Unnamed on Map)     | 52. "Pen Grove"                    |
| 8. "Piggott field"        | 30. "Little Threshers"     | 53. "Sayle field"                  |
| 9. "Cray"                 | 31. "Threshers"            | 54. "Berry piece"                  |
| 10. "Broadhurst"          | 32. "Marld Meadow"         | 55. "The Ham"                      |
| 11. "Stoney Croft"        | 33. "Grigs"                | 56. "Hanging Lands"                |
| 12. "Great Teasly field"  | 34. — (Simon King's)       | 57. "Ninwood Close"                |
| 13. "Little Teasly field" | 35. "Lanthorns"            | 58. "Ninwood Coppes"               |
| 14. "Long field"          | 36. "Swallowes Hay"        | 59. "The Breach"                   |
| 15. — ("Mr. Peeps, gent") | 37. — (William Hilder's)   | 60. "Upper Ninwood Close"          |
| 16. "Petters"             | 38. — (Michael Richbell's) | 61. "Kings Grove"                  |
| 17. "Bramley field"       | 39. — ( " )                | 62. "Down Close"                   |
| 18. "Harms field"         | 40. "Rosefield"            | 63. — (Sir Francis Stydolf)        |
| 19. — (John Hether's)     | 41. "Lower Rosefield"      | 64. — (Mr. Cole)                   |
| 20. "Cobs"                | 42. "Grigs"                | 65. "Stagly"                       |
| 21. "Walters Mead"        | 43. "Lyars field"          |                                    |
| 22. "Sheephouse fields"   | 44. — (Mr. John Bragg)     |                                    |
|                           | 45. "Gooseces Mead"        |                                    |

The death, on the 16th September, 1643, of the Rector of Ashtead, Robert Quennell, occurred just in time to prevent his being ejected from this living by Parliament. No doubt he was one of those clergy who refused to submit to the puritan faction, which required use of the "Directory" in place of the Prayer-book and disuse of the surplice or other vestments, and, for not obeying these and other orders he would be included in their list of "Scandalous Ministers."

Anyhow, in the Commons' Journal for the 23rd September, 1643, is the following entry:—

"An Ordinance for sequestering the Rectory of Ashtead, in the County of Surrey, (become void by the Death of Mr. Quennell, the late Incumbent, and now in the Patronage of the Lord Mowbray, in actual War against the Parliament) into the Hands and for the Benefit of Mr. Wm. Kinge, a godly and orthodox Divine; was this Day read; and by 'Vote upon the question, assented unto.'"—(Vol. 3, p. 253).

For some reason, it was not until 1647 that William King was formally instituted to the living and there is the following entry in the Lords' Journal (vol. 9, p. 203):—

"1647, May 22nd (8 Lords only present). Ordered etc., That Doctor Aylett give Institution and Induction unto William King, Clerk, to the Rectory of Ashted, alias Asted, in Com. Surrey: and this with a salvo jure cujuscunque, and taking the National League and Covenant, and producing his Presentation under the Great Seal."

One "John Quennell, Gent." is entered in the Court Rolls as a tenant of the Manor from 1638 until his death in 1653. There is also a reference to his "only sister (the name omitted) now wife of Thomas Peirson." Presumably these two were the children of the Rector, Robert Quennell.

William King<sup>1</sup> was clearly one of the members of the Ashtead family of this name who were yeoman farmers and tenants of the Manor from very early days. Evidently his wife, Elizabeth, who may likewise have been of an Ashtead family, had money of her own, for, in 1652 she took over two copyhold properties known as "Long Merry" and "Picked Close" and though the amount of the rent is (by an oversight) not stated in the Court Roll, the fine for her admission to the property (and which was paid by her husband) amounted to £2 10s.<sup>2</sup>

We have one brief glimpse of William King when preaching from the pulpit which he had usurped, for, on September 26th, 1658, John Evelyn records in his diary, "Mr. King preached at Ashtead on 15 Proverbs, 24. A Quaker would have disputed with him." Brief to the point of ambiguity! Are we to understand that a Quaker, from among the congregation, attempted to dispute in the middle of the sermon, but was quickly ejected from the church by beadle or sidesmen? Evelyn (if only he had been as discursive as Samuel Pepys) might have told us more, but does not or even say how he came to be attending a service at Ashtead and at a time when he had taken up residence at Deptford.

At the Restoration, as we know, William King was ejected from the Rectory (to which Mr. Elkanah Downes was instituted in 1662) but he continued to live at Ashtead, from whence he organized "conventicles" at Ewell and Dorking. If only the Parish Registers prior to 1662 (the date of the earliest at the present day) had survived, we would know more of Ashtead during this interesting period of the Commonwealth.

John Pepys of Ashtead, Samuel's well-to-do cousin, was mentioned, though somewhat briefly, in the previous article in this series. Through his having befriended this son of his poor relations, John Pepys secured a place in Samuel's affections, and in his diary, which commences just eight years after his cousin's death.

In Arthur Bryant's "The Man in the Making", after his description (page 11) of Samuel's home and of his father John Pepys, a tailor, he continues:—

"A few yards down Salisbury Court was the house of another John Pepys, a Templar, who had an estate in the country and kept his own coach. He was descended, however, through four generations of Norfolk gentlemen, from the same stock as his humble neighbours . . . . One of Samuel's greatest treats was to be asked to stay at old John Pepys' country house at Ashtead . . . 'Ashtead, my old place of pleasure,' was a very dear memory to Samuel Pepys."

On his death in 1652, John Pepys' only son Edward, "of the Middle Temple, London, Esquier" as the Court Roll states, inherited his father's property and on the "second proclamation" made at the Manor Court held on the 2nd January, 1653, he came forward and was formally admitted to the Ashtead copyhold property. However, he appears to have had no particular attachment to the property and relinquished it in 1655 (12th February) and at the next court it was granted to "William Oglethorpe, gent. and Sarah his wife, of Alderman Bury in London," with license to let for 21 years and permission to fell "tenn timber trees . . . for the repair and emending the buildings."

Pepys' first reference in his diary to Ashtead was on the 2nd August, 1662, when he was dining with Captain Cocke. He writes: "I eat, among other fruit, much mulberrys, a thing I have not eat of these many years, since I used to be at Ashted, at my cozen Pepys." The first visit which he describes, that made on the 25th July, 1663, was more or less by chance, as he intended staying in Epsom. "When we come there, we could hear of no lodging, the town so full; but, which was better, I went towards Ashted, my old place of pleasure, and there by direction of one goodman Arthur, whom we met on the way,

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1. He came from the living of Cobham in Surrey.

2. Much has been found out about the Ashtead King family since this was written in 1951.

we went to Farmer Page's, at which direction he and I made good sport, and there we got a lodging in a little hole we could not stand upright in, but rather than go further to look we staid there, and while supper was getting ready I took him to walk up and down behind my cozen Pepys' house that was, which I find comes little short of what I took it to be when I was a little boy, as things use commonly to appear greater than then when one comes to be a man and knows more, and so up and down in the closes, which I know so well methinks, and account it good fortune that I lie here that I may have opportunity to renew my old walks. It seems there is one Mr. Rouse, they call him the Queen's Tailor, that lives there now. So to our lodging to supper, and among other meats had a brave dish of cream, the best I ever eat in my life, and with which we pleased ourselves much, and by and by to bed, where, with much ado yet good sport, we made shift to lie, but with little ease, and a little spaniel by us, which has followed us all the way, a pretty dogg, and we believe that follows my horse, and do belong to Mrs. Gauden," (Pepys had visited the Gaudens at Clapham, earlier in the day) "which we, therefore are very careful of."

On the next day, a Sunday, they visit the Wells and later: "So I led him (Creed) to Ashted Church (by the place where Peter, my cozen's man, went blindfold and found a certain place we chose for him upon a wager), where we had a dull Doctor, one Downe, worse than I think even parson King was, of whom we made so much scorn."

Later, he and Creed chased one another (followed by the small dog) in the woods and thickets behind his cousin's house. "Lord! what a course did we run for an hour together, losing ourselves, and indeed I despaired I should ever come to any path, but still from thicket to thicket, a thing I could hardly have believed a man could have be lost so long in so small a room."

Of those mentioned above (and the families of Arthur and Page are still represented in Ashtead) Arthur (as the "Surrey Hearth Tax Return" for 1664 shows) was a Robert Arthur who occupied a property known as "Penders" and assessed at 2 hearths. William Page, a farmer, had a 6-hearth dwelling.<sup>3</sup> Mr. (Elkanah) Downes, the Rector, occupied a building with 5 hearths, while Mr. Rouse, who occupied Pepys' cousin's house, was assessed for 10 hearths in the Tax Return referred to.

Pepys visited Ashtead once again, on the 14th July, 1667. On this occasion, by coach, as he was accompanied by his wife and his cousin, Mrs. Turner. The account which is long, but, as usual with Pepys, most entertaining and full of incident, adds more to the picture of Ashtead as it then was—a remote spot in the depths of the country.

His account of his meeting with the old shepherd and the boy reading the Bible to him, and of Pepys' attempt to cast stones with his horn-tipped crook (in the way that the shepherd could do so expertly) and the other incidents of his visit would occupy too much space if repeated here and for them I would, in conclusion, refer to the published Diary of Samuel Pepys all those to whom it is not already familiar.

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3. Apparently he farmed the Manor Farm, the farmhouse of which was on the site of the present Ashtead Park Farm, but which was almost entirely destroyed (the lower part of the front wall and basement survived) in the fire of 8th May, 1731.

## LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### Account for the Year ended 30th September, 1956

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance at 30th September, 1955:—			By Printing and Duplicating .. ..		13 6 2
General .. .. .	85 9 8		„ Hire of Halls for Lectures .. ..		2 5 0
Library .. .. .	18 1 2		„ Postages, Stationery, and Sundry Dis- bursements .. .. .		8 8 2
		103 10 10	„ Subscriptions and Affiliation Fees:—		
„ Subscriptions:—			Surrey Record Society .. ..	1 0 0	
145 at 7s. 6d. (including £4 10s. re- ceived in 1955) .. .. .	54 7 6		South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies .. .. .	12 6	
10 at 1s. (Junior Members) ..	10 0		Field Studies Council .. ..	1 1 0	
		54 17 6			2 13 6
„ Subscriptions paid in arrear:—			„ Printing of <i>Proceedings</i> for 1954 ..		76 17 6
For 1955 (4 at 7s. 6d.; 1 at 1s.) ..		1 11 0	„ Visits:—		
„ Subscriptions paid in advance:—			Expenses .. .. .	15 17 9	
For 1957 (8 at 7s. 6d.) .. ..		3 0 0	Receipts .. .. .	11 16 6	
„ Surrey County Council—Grant ..		15 0 0			4 1 3
„ Sale of the Society's <i>Proceedings</i> ..		6 18 8	„ Balances at Banks:—		
„ Donations .. .. .		23 15 1	Library Fund .. .. .	18 1 2	
„ Interest on Bank Account .. ..		1 10 6	General .. .. .	83 4 8	
			„ Cash in Hand .. .. .	1 6 2	
					102 12 0
		£210 3 7			£210 3 7

### Library Fund

By Balance brought forward (there have been no purchases during the year) .. .. £18 1 2

*Note.*—The account does not include items for the value of Archives, equipment, and library.

(Signed) S. E. D. FORTESCUE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct,

(Signed) J. G. W. LEWARNE, *Hon. Auditor.*

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