



# Colchester Archaeological Group

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## ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 3 1960

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## PART ONE MARCH 1960

This Bulletin marks the end of our Winter meetings, the last of which was held on March 28th. A report on those held since Christmas appears in this issue. The success of these Monday evenings exceeded all our hopes and we plan a similar series next winter. Meanwhile we look forward to the digging season which begins at Easter with a small excavation on Mr Erith's land at Ardleigh; there is also an alternative site at West Mersea in Mr. Smeed's garden. Details may be obtained from the Secretary who has also arranged to keep a notice of current excavations posted at the Castle Bookshop in Museum Street Colchester, by kind permission of Mr Doncaster.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 21 March 1960 and the following were elected:-

Chairman.	Mr M.R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A.
Vice Chairman.	Mr F.H. Erith.
Secretary	Mrs K. de Brisay
Treasurer	Mr H.W. Palmer.
Excavations Secretary	Mr A.B. Doncaster.
Public Relations Officer	Mr L.H. Gant.
Committee Members	Miss Tessa Stratton.
	Mr B.J.N. Edwards.

This issue concludes an account by Mr F.H. Erith of his Iron Age finds; an article by Cmdr. Farrands on the Ardleigh crop-marks from the air; and Mr A.F. Hall on his prolonged investigation on the Monkwick-Barnhall Rampart.

In future Bulletins we hope to include a series of notes and correspondence from our members and your contributions will be most welcome. Please send these and any other queries to the Secretary; Mrs K de Brisay, 89, Maldon Road, Colchester. Tel 6207

### WINTER PLOUGHING 1959 - 60 AT ARDLEIGH, by F. H. Erith

The clearing of the sugar beet crop in mid-December meant that a block of forty acres became free for ploughing. A part of this forty acres had not previously been deep ploughed; another part consisted of land that had held the late Bronze Age cemetery.

It appears likely that something of archaeological interest lay under the soil, so it seemed worth while to take some trouble in order to find it. I therefore gave the tractor driver instructions to plough as deep as possible and not to proceed at all unless I was present to walk immediately behind the tractor.

The ploughing was accordingly done in December and January, it took twenty five working days, during which I (or occasionally Frank Brand) observed every square foot of land, at the depth of about 13 inches, at the rate of about three square feet a second.

The action of the plough is to put the bottom two inches or so of soil on to the top, but obviously, it is only when one is ploughing deeper than ever before that anything will be discovered, it is quite easy to tell if one is going deeper than ever before, because the previously undisturbed soil will be a different colour. On my land the topsoil is pale brown in colour with a present depth of about twelve inches and the previously undisturbed soil has an orange colour. When this orange colour is coming to the top, then I know that we are deep enough.

Even so there were times, especially after rain when the surface was greasy, when the plough could not get deep enough, so that we are still not sure that everything has been spotted.

The first few days were unproductive, but eventually we came across some sherds of pottery of Iron Age "A" type, together with a stone pestle. After two more days we found another Iron Age "A" site, which meant we had found this pottery in five separate places on the farm. This pottery is extremely rare in Essex, the only previous finds being at Danbury, Great Bromley and Colchester. The ware is brown on the outside, black on the inside and permeated with white grits.

A few days later we came across what must be one of the best finds we have so far had:- a Belgic Grave group consisting of three cups or tazzas and two pear shaped pedestal urns, with a pile of burnt bones alongside. In the next furrow, at a distance of twelve feet, a second grave group was encountered, consisting of two pedestalled tazzas of similar ware, standing a foot apart, with a heap of burnt bones between them. Twelve feet down the furrow was a third grave group, containing two pedestalled pear shaped urns, standing a foot apart from each other, with a pile of burnt bones between them. (G.R. 52/057283).

Continuing the ploughing, after three more days we encountered a Belgic squatter site, consisting of broken pottery, burnt earth and A concentration of burnt pebbles. Later on we came across a concentration of very soft pottery of Belgic or Roman times, the sherds breaking and crumbling at a touch.

Finally we came to the site of the late Bronze Age cemetery, and found an urn near its southern extremity. (Mr Frank Girling kindly photographed this one in situ). At the northern end we knew that a large area had been disturbed by pottery making in Roman times, and when we ploughed over this the plough turned up quantities of ash and coarse Roman sherds. At the far side of this Roman disturbance, in practically the last furrows of the forty acres, we encountered a further three late Bronze Age Urns, which Mr Girling photographed in situ also. The total for the Cemetery thus becomes 106 cremations in urns, plus a further twenty or so not in urns.

While all this had been going on, my neighbours, Messrs. E. Abbott and Sons Ltd., having just purchased a deep plough, had been working in part of their hundred acre field. I had asked the tractor driver to keep a look out for pottery, but he did not see anything. As orange coloured soil was coming up to the surface I asked permission to walk over this field and was amazed to see Belgic pottery practically everywhere. I asked Mr Brian Blake to come and survey this place and we pin-pointed seventeen main sites where the pottery was most concentrated and put tile sherds round about to the nearest surveyed site. Besides pottery there was daub, iron, and half a nether millstone. The area covered about ten acres and with the sites at Vinces Farm, the Belgic settlement must have measured three quarters of a mile by a quarter of a mile, and must surely be one of the largest Belgic sites in England. When Messrs. Abbotts deep plough the remaining parts of their field the settlement may be found to be even larger.

### PEDESTAL URNS

The discovery of six pedestal urns, coupled with those that have previously been found on this farm, means that the size of the cemetery here must be approaching those of the classic sites at Aylesford, Swarling and Welwyn. The difference seems to be that the Ardleigh Cemetery is dispersed over a wide area, while the others are concentrated. At Ardleigh we have found eight grave groups in an area the length of which is half a mile and all are at least 200 yards from the main Belgic settlement site. The cemetery is to the south of the Settlement.

The subject of Pedestal Urns has been dealt with in Vol. 87 of the Archaeological Journal (1930) in an article by Christopher Hawkes and G. C. Dunning, called "The Belgae of Gaul and Britain",

where the migration of the Belgic tribes from Gaul to Britain in the first century B.C. was traced and partly confirmed by the finds in both countries of Pedestal Urns and bead-rim bowls. At the end of the article a list of all the known Pedestal Urns and Bead-rim bowls was appended. (Since the article was written over thirty years have elapsed and I have not been able to find out what additions have been brought to light. I should be most grateful for information of finds of Pedestal Urns since 1930).

This list mentioned about 160 Pedestal Urns (including fragments) of which 55 came from Essex, 29 came from Kent, and 26 from London.

All the London ones, however, were later Roman versions, most of which consisted of bases only. Whilst Pedestal Urns were chiefly found in Essex and Kent, the Bead-rim bowls appeared mostly in Wessex and only rarely were both types found together.

The most usual Pedestal Urn is the pear shaped kind with a flat or slightly dished base. A later development seems to be the hollow based type (like the bottom of a wine bottle), and still later, of course, is the version made in grey Roman ware.

Another variety is the Pedestalled Tazza, of which there appear to have been about a dozen found in England, mostly miniatures of about five inches diameter, as at Welwyn and on Cranborne Chase. A very fine specimen from Billericay is in the Colchester Museum. Here is a list of the different well-known sites, plus Ardleigh:-

SITE.	GRAVE GROUPS .	PEDESTALLED URNS .		
		Flat Based	Wine Bottle based	Tazzas
Roman				
Welwyn	4.	4	-	2 -
Aylesford	15 approx.	12	-	- -
Swarling	18	7	-	- -
Ardleigh	8 1	3	4	2

Some of the Ardleigh potter is illustrated below.

- Fig. 1. Two pedestalled Tazzas. Found January 1st 1960.
- Fig. 2. Two flat-based Pedestal Urns. Found January 1st 1960.
- Fig. 3. Pedestal Urn with Bead-rim bowl having an omphalos base. Both green-brown in colour. Found December, 1956.
- Fig. 4. Pedestal Urn in grey Roman ware and not associated with a burial. Found 1957.
- Fig. 5. Grave group of five pots, two of them pedestalled. The pedestals have the arched base like a wine bottle, which is supposed to make them later than the flat based type. Found January 1st 1960.
- Fig. 6. A rough sketch of the above grave group as found. One pot is upside down and a small heap of cremated bones is alongside. The bones were presumably placed in a wooden casket or a bag, which has since perished.

The dotted line represents the course of the ploughshare and was about 13 inches below the surface.

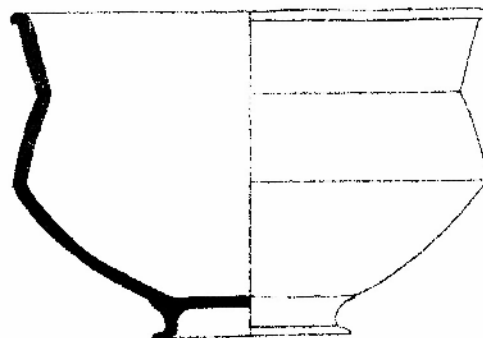
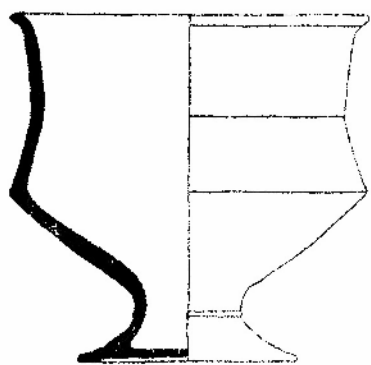


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

SCALE

one-fourth linear

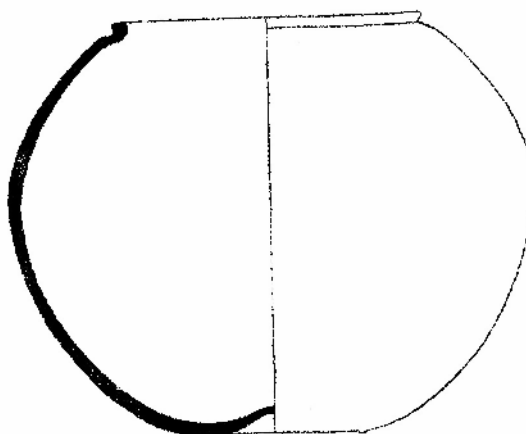
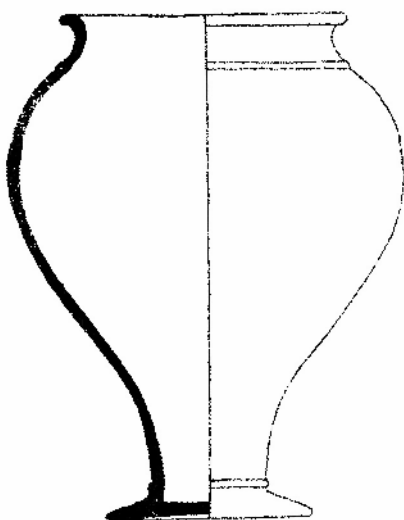
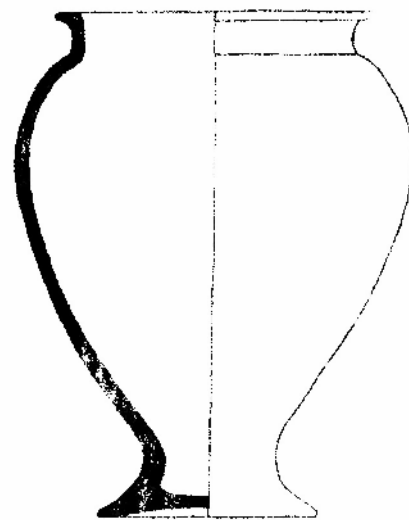
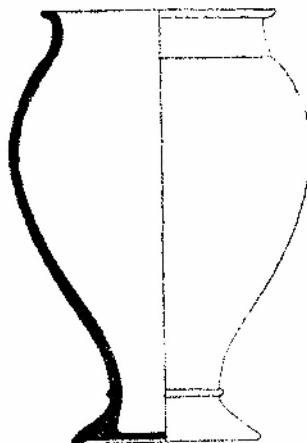


Fig. 3.

SCALE one-fourth linear.

Fig. 4.

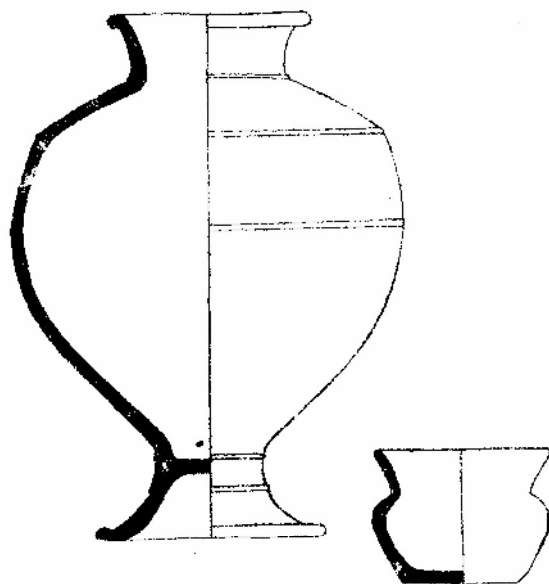


Fig 5.

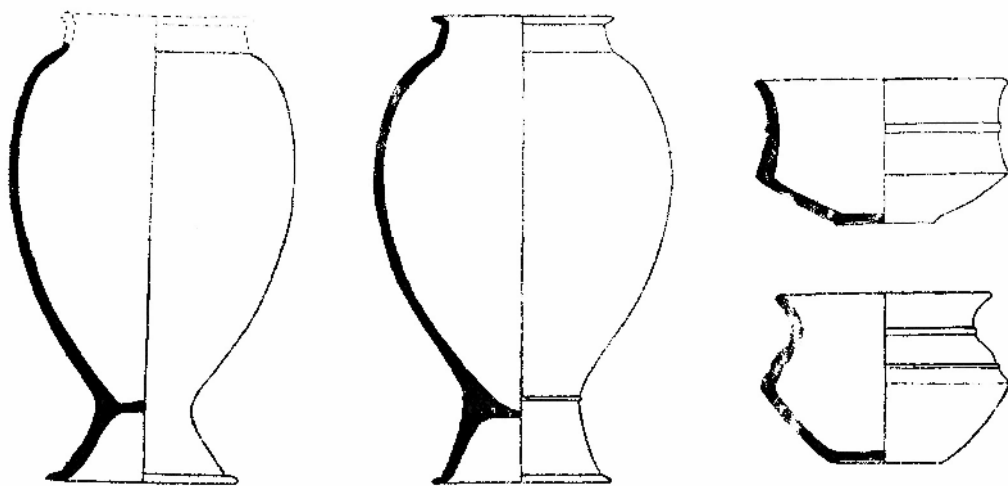


Fig. 6.



THE MONKWICK - BARNHALL RAMPART  
by A.F. Hall

This great rampart was traced by the Royal Grammar School between 1940 and 1953. South of Berechurch Hall Road it is recognizably a rampart with ditch to east still conspicuous, and it is so shown by Chapman and Andre (1777) and early O.S. maps; more recent sheets give it as also a Roman way. It would not be surprising that it should have been so used - as it is today as far as the entrance to Park Farm; but the surmise is almost certainly incorrect, for near Roman River, where the owner Col. G.C. Mangles let us section it, it survives as a fine mound of alluvial soil without trace of metallurgy. Another problem is raised by its zig-zag course south of Lethe Brook; first it turns southeast as if to run parallel with it, but at the 100 ft. contour it turns abruptly south, choosing to follow the foot of a steep reverse slope. Thus it seems improbable, either that the rampart was ever a Roman road, or that its primary function was military.

The course north of Barnhall Road (from which distances given are measured) seems now certain; it runs in a straight line to the south west corner of the Cemetery. As far as the still standing survival just south of Monkwick (830 yds) the 1777 map shows it as rampart; recent O.S. sheets as "Roman Way" and the earlier as neither - but instead gives a Roman road running away west of Monkwick and then on to near Pownall Crescent.(see below) This stretch, previously only hinted at by undulation, was proved by a tank trap which cut the ditch at a fine angle, so exposing a long section (0 - 122 yds) (In considering a rampart as a barrier it is to be noted that before long cattle were freely crossing the trap by ramps they had contrived in its walls.) From 835 to 1025 yds. are ponds and building, but at the east of the stackyard beyond there begins a hedge which runs on the rampart right to the Cemetery. Where a footpath crossed it (1200 yds) a measurement by level gave a drop to east of 4½ ft. This stretch has twice been sectioned. In 1952 rampart and ditch were well shown in a trench dug for a gas main (1170 yds.); but the best exposure was in a tank trap just south of the footpath. Here the ditch was 25 ft. wide at gravel top; and 8 ft. back from it, on the old surface beneath the rampart, was a whitish tump, presumably turf. No other stratification was recorded but there was some reason to suspect a berm.

The hedge north of the footpath was not examined, and that anything further was to be learnt of the rampart is due to almost incredible good fortune that permission was given to investigate in the south west corner of the old cemetery, which, in 1946, remained the one area still untenanted.

\*The "Roman Way" is usually regarded as a discovery, or invention, of H. Laver (c.1885), but clearly this is not so. The Way was already on the maps, and he merely bent the course to bring it on to the rampart north instead of south of Monkwick. Recent O.S. sheets seem to compromise by siting the junction at the farm itself. It would be interesting to know the reason for the more westerly course of the earlier O.S. maps.

This was large enough to include the bend in the rampart; and there was just time to find this out and to make at least some examination of a gap at that bend. Naturally 'excavation' was out of the question where graves were to be dug so that the ditch had to be traced by auger, and for the rest we must make do with such clues as could be found near the surface. In this game of blind man's buff the auger gave no more than often faltering answers. However where YES recurred in a consistent pattern one could feel fairly sure of the Ditch; but NOES were less informative as the gravel brought up need not be natural and undisturbed, but could equally be gravel thrown into the ditch so long as it was fairly clean. Thus the word gap here means merely a break in continuity the reason for which is uncertain.

At first augering gave results that I think anyone present would have accepted, implying a ditch about 25 ft. wide with middle about 30 ft. from west wall and parallel with it. Beyond 100 yds. however, borings gave always negative answers so that we had to retrace our steps by bracketing to locate the point where the ditch either turned or stopped; and this was 262 ft. from the south wall. The ditch would hardly turn west and seemed not to turn east, so that we had a butt end on our hands and a probability that after a gap, in the sense given above, the

ditch would begin again somewhere to the north east or east. We now resorted to long chains of test holes radiating from a common centre south east of our butt and. Something will be said of this later and here mention need be made only of a 'feruginous crust' noticed in locating the butt end for it will be met with again. Ultimately a small area was found at the east limit of our site where the auger again began to give positive results; this is just west of a junction of two carriage ways about 100ft. from the west wall and 250 ft. from the south. This suggested an east running ditch, the end of which however was inaccessible beneath a path; and we only know that the gap

between the butt ends must be less than 85 ft. (The gap in Gryme's dyke  $1\frac{1}{2}$  furlongs north of Dugard Avenue is about 80 ft.) Investigation further east within the Cemetery was impossible, but a glance outside seemed to find this new rampart, in the hedge separating what is now Barnhall Estate from the allotments at the north of the rifle ranges.

To return to the Cemetery; near Barnhall butt end the verdict of the auger was confirmed in a grave later dug there (Q.8.53). The carriage way eastward from here is flanked on the north by a bank, which, whether natural or not, presumably gives the course of the rampart; and when an old grave was reopened at its foot (Q.16.96) ditch fill was seen, considerably deeper in the south than north wall, as it should be at the inner edge of a ditch. The remaining evidence is from trenching farther east for which permission was given by the War Department. At a point 1370 ft. from Mersea Road I located the lips of the ditch, again 25 ft. wide, and by digging to firm sand at the middle found the depth  $5\frac{1}{4}$  ft., which is less than expected. So Trench II was dug, at 1230 ft. Here the width was the same but the depth even less, only  $3\frac{3}{4}$  ft. (unless I was mistaken about the firm sand), giving a section so shallow as hardly to suggest a ditch proper. On this assumed bottom lay numerous Anglo-Saxon potsherds and slabs of 'feruginous crust' (see above). A further trial, at 1840 ft., confirmed that the depth in Trench II was certainly anomalous. At 2500 ft. the hedge ends and beyond there is nothing known to me of the rampart, though probably its vestiges may be known to others. It is aiming for the Colne where Salary Brook joins it, and perhaps we should not overlook the fact that the Roman River end is also opposite a tributary (Layer Brook). It is not known whether or not it continued beyond the Colne; but if it did, as a sort of north circular boundary, there are at least two stretches of rampart that might belong to it – the 'rampiers' of the Perambulations on Boxted and Horkesley Heaths, and of course the surviving stretch running back to the river from the Golf Links at Braiswick.

Since the pottery was reported to be from the bottom of the ditch it has been suggested that it dates Barnhall rampart as Anglo-Saxon; but there would seem to be objections to this, unless Monkwick rampart is also to be so dated; for by what logic may we date the one rampart as Anglo-Saxon on slight and even anomalous evidence while dating the other as Iron Age or none at all? No difference in character is known between the two ramparts, both of which were probably bermed; their ditches have the same width; and their courses though different are articulated. Lastly, both produce the 'ferruginous crust' where a crossing is either known or may be suspected. In the cemetery this is certain, and how else are we to explain the shallow section at Barnhall? Here it is assumed that the pottery really was at the bottom of the ditch such as it was; but if I had been deluded about this, and the firm sand had in fact been a refill, the Anglo-Saxon theory collapses altogether – or really does not arise; and the (pottery?) can be used to date only the occasion of the refill, whatever that may have been. In either case perhaps, then, the Barnhall rampart may reasonably be restored to an Iron Age horizon, if that dating best suits orthodox opinion!

#### THE GAP IN THE CEMETERY

The numerous and widespread probes entailed in locating Barnhall ditch revealed the significant fact that in every one probably the layers above gravel top must be moved soil. Accordingly for five months longer, until elbowed off by grave diggers, I continued to collect samples over an even wider area. This added a stone road to the bag, but otherwise did nothing towards elucidation, merely confirming the earlier observations by repetition. It is impossible here to describe the evidence, drawn from 23 graves and more than 100 little trenches ranging from two to 17 ft. long and illustrated by distribution plans and innumerable samples. These records and any others that may have been made, are a sorry substitute for

the evidence in situ now inaccessible, but since they are at least voluminous it cannot be said we lack for clues; what now is wanted is a Sherlock Holmes to interpret.

.....  
In the absence of S.H. all I can offer is a copy of a communication received from Dr Watson's favourite Aunt, Sally, who writes:- "There is obviously only one solution that does not conflict with any of the evidence.

1. When the rampart was built, with a gap at the bend, the congestion of traffic was so great that a quagmire was created after every shower. Therefore the whole of the soil had to be removed down to gravel top to obtain firmer going, and as this is rather sandy a layer of small stones was added. This explains why all the soil is moved soil, and why so often a stony layer is recorded at gravel top.

2. All was now well until in some emergency the two butt ends were joined by an excavation probably not very deep (of. Trench II at Barnhall). The emergency over, the still clean gravel was replaced, but proved less firm than before, and accordingly it was covered by a layer of turves. In the course of centuries some but not all of this has been panned by natural processes (ferruginous crust). This explains all the puzzles about this crust, and especially why it has subsided in places, i.e. into the emergency ditch.

3. Ultimately a stone road was built at a higher level than the old tracks. To this end a wide belt of soil was laid, which we know to be moved as there is sand mixed with it, and on this a massive road was bedded. We know these stones must be a road from the course, confirmed by the grave diggers away to the south east; but the metalling though tough, is so crude that we cannot identify it as probably Roman. I suggest Anglo-Saxon (again of. Trench I at Barnhall).

No trouble at all, only too pleased.

SAL. "

#### NATIONAL GRID REFERENCES

It has been pointed out by Dr. John Morris, in a friendly criticism of certain articles which have appeared in the Bulletin, that national grid references enhance the value of the records to future students.

Mr. Phillips, of the Ordnance Survey Office, who bears the responsibility for the Borough maps, has kindly given eight figure full references for the places mentioned in preceding issues of the Bulletin as shewn below:-

VOL. I. No. 2. June 1958 - "Excavation at St. Helen's Lane"

N. G. map reference - 99742546

VOL. II. No. 3. Sept., 1955 - "Discoveries at Joy's site"

N. G. map reference - (mediaeval wall) 9978525

(sic)

(Norman building) 99742521

CROP MARKS AT ARDLEIGH.  
by R. H. Farrands

In the Colchester Archaeological Group's Quarterly Bulletin Vol. II, No. 3, Mr Erith referred to my flight over his farmland at Ardleigh on the 21st June which resulted in the discovery, by crop and shadow marks, of seven unsuspected barrows and also indications of extensive occupation in the near vicinity. Another flight was made on 11th July by an aircraft belonging to Airspray at Langham. The resulting crop marks from these two flights have been plotted on the accompanying map of the area (see below).

In spite of being a complete novice at air photography, the results were gratifying in spite of conditions on both flights being unfavourable. In the type of aircraft used it was impossible to take photographs from vertically overhead and thus all were taken at an oblique angle from an altitude between 1500 and 1000 feet; this inevitably means that plotting of the results cannot be done by simple proportion as equal distances require a proportionally smaller scale with increase of distance from the camera. Not having the necessary mathematical formulae with which to apply correction for angle and distance, it was found that reasonably accurate plotting could be obtained on the twenty-five inch to the mile Ordnance Survey maps by lines of bearing joining field corners, electricity pylons, buildings, etc., identifiable on both the prints and survey maps and also by simple proportion of objects at the same distance from the camera. Results tallied reasonably well with those crop marks actually measured on the ground.

The long period of fine weather and drought in the summer of 1959 gave optimum conditions for crop and shadow marks and, with a hopeful heart, a flight was arranged on the 21st June at 10.30 a.m. from Ipswich Airport to see whether the Iron Age, Roman-British and Pagan-Saxon site at Little Oakley, Essex, would reveal any of its secrets from the air. In spite of a strong, turbulent south west wind, the site was reached without much physical distress. Unfortunately the Walton Crag and London Clay subsoil of the area once again produced negative results in the crops of barley.

As Mr Erith had reported seeing possible crop marks the previous year on his land, course was set for Wix and following the Harwich to Colchester road, turning to starboard at the Black Boy, Ardleigh was soon below; crop marks abounding everywhere. Flying round in a circle it became evident that from the direction of the sun very little could be seen and the optimum position was to photograph up sun thereby getting the combined effect of shadow and crop mark. This was born out by the resulting prints of photographs taken from many different directions.

The second flight was taken at 9.30 a.m. on the 11th July under even worse conditions, low stratus clouds at 1500 feet and a poor light. As one had to book a flight well in advance, one cannot choose the ideal weather conditions for this work and the best had to be made of the prevailing weather.

The conclusions formed from both flights were that crop marks in the wheat were at their best on the June flight when they were ripening to a yellow colour but over silted up ditches and pits were still green. Photographs from the top of a car at this period also gave good results. On the July flight, when both the barley and wheat had ripened, the crop marks in the wheat had practically disappeared but those in the barley were extraordinarily clear although from the ground nothing could be seen.

Taking field by field, No 667 with barley showed six circular crop marks, A to F, of which A and B were some sixty five feet in diameter, whilst D and E were unusually small being some twenty feet across. It is presumed that even the latter were crop marks of barrows in spite of their small diameter.

In field No 716 under wheat the marking showed two parallel ditches presumably flanking a road or trackway dividing into two at the north end of the field and being picked up again in field No. 75. This trackway, whether by coincidence or not, points directly towards Colchester in a south-south-westerly direction. On the eastern side of field 716 were ditch crop marks of

possible Iron Age or Roman-British fields. Field 716 also showed areas of black spots which tallied with the large number of Bronze Age cinerary urns in groups excavated by Mr Erith in recent years.

In field 675 marks in the barley showed the continuation of the trackway from field 716, also another trackway running in from the east to a complex of marks which are not all contemporary. An interpretation here possibly shows the track-way leading to the entrance of an enclosure.

Marks in field 667 show two parallel lines of a trackway, the plotting of which is rather difficult as there is only one oblique photograph of this field. This trackway probably links up with those in field 675.

In field 711, a small sub-rectangular crop mark shows a ditched enclosure of some one hundred by sixty feet, with possibly two entrances, one on the north west side and the other on the south east side. Sherds of Bronze Age pottery and Iron Age loom weights have been found on the surface of this field.

In conclusion one must say that there are many difficulties for an amateur in attempting this sort of work. Among them must be mentioned the disadvantage of having to book a flight on a prearranged time and date and take pot luck with the weather. Although many authorities have made generalities about the best time of the year for taking aerial photographs, there is a lack of precise information on the optimum states of various crops on various subsoils. The expense of flying which prevents a person of limited means from taking flights unless there is definite evidence on the ground of crop marks.

Should anyone see definite crop or shadow this summer on fields within fifteen miles of Ipswich or Langham, information on such would be appreciated if sent to 451, Main Road, Dovercourt, Essex, or telephone Harwich1011. Finally if anyone would like to purchase a photographic print of the crop and shadow marks I shall be pleased to send this post free upon receipt of 1/- at the same address.



### WEEKLY MEETINGS

The second half of our winter sessions began on the 11th January with a talk on what is probably the best known Roman antiquity in Britain - Hadrian's Wall. The speaker was Mr B.J.N. Edwards and he outlined Roman history in the first century and pointed out the necessity for the building of Hadrian's Wall, which was a frontier of the Roman Empire. The construction of the wall, its extension, partial destruction and re-building were all dealt with by Mr Edwards, who has dug at Halton Chesters. The wall was built by the Roman Legions, he said, but was never garrisoned by them, the Auxiliaries providing troops for this purpose. Maps, diagrams and illustrations, many of which were original photographs taken by the speaker, illustrated a most interesting lecture, which, although general in outline, on account of the vastness of the subject, contained much detailed description of the construction of the mile castles, forts and turrets which defended it, and the vallum at back of the wall, the purpose of which has occupied archaeologists for centuries. Mr Edwards concluded his talk by listing some famous names of people who have studied the wall, and; publications and guides giving its history.

The following week the speaker was Mr H.J. Edwards who gave a very interesting address on the Roman Villa. Employing blackboard illustrations and drawings of plans the speaker explained the development of the villa from a simple rectangular house to the great premises which covered some acres in area in later times. Mr Edwards postulated a theory that these large villas, so strategically placed for military watch or defence, were in fact, military strong-points or forts. Special consideration of the twelve known villa sites in Essex appeared to confirm this theory. The speaker, who has made a special study of this subject, was warmly thanked by the members at the conclusion of the discussion which followed his talk.

On the 25th January, Mr Felix H. Erith read a well prepared and illustrated paper on Roman Samian ware pottery. Mr Erith remarked on the provenance of this distinctive pottery, which is found on every Roman site in Britain and in most parts of the Roman Empire. The earliest and most sought after, is the Arretine ware, made in northern Italy, many forms of which shew the influence of metal working. The great kilns of southern Gaul were working at their height during the second century, until Severus overcame Claudius Albinus and the kilns and potters were destroyed. The later centres of production moved to Eastern Gaul and Camulodunum. Mr Erith dwelt at length upon the various forms and classifications of this pottery and demonstrated the wide variety of decoration in the terra sigillata and the methods of production from moulds and stamps. Following the lecture, members examined the unrivalled collection of Samian ware in the Castle Museum and discussed points of interest.

On the following Monday evening the Group was addressed by Mr Leonard Gant who gave a most illuminating talk in Mediaeval pottery. The speaker said that the study of this typically English pottery had been neglected by archaeologists yet specimens and collections are widespread. Beginning with Norman cooking pots and jugs, the speaker led his audience through four centuries to the beautiful green glazed wares of early Tudor times, illustrating his talk with pictures and by specimens from members' collections. The display cases in the Castle Museum were later examined and a commentary given by the speaker.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February the Group met at Drummonds, Feering, by kind invitation of Mr M.J. Campen, the well known archaeologist and lecturer, who projected colour transparencies of great archaeological interest and gave a commentary on them. Mr Campen has been associated with many excavations in Essex and has been fortunate in finding many objects and important sites of occupation and industry. Not the least of these was the rare columbarium at White Notley, which the speaker said was part of a self contained settlement, which also had its own brick making industry and kilns. The free use of Roman building material in parish churches often indicated the proximity of a Roman settlement. In this connection Mr Campen said Great Tey was an excellent example, though here, as at Kelvedon and Stebbing, full excavation of the sites had not been made. The Group later examined part of the speaker's extensive collection of Roman and mediaeval antiquities and discussed them. One of the most amazing of these was a small lead plaque inscribed with a Roman curse. A most delicate and beautiful necklace of silver and beads was also much admired. Gaulish Samian ware and later colour-coated Colchester ware were displayed and

a Roman soldier's shield was particularly interesting. The thanks of the Group were expressed by Mr A.B. Doncaster who said the evening had been a most enjoyable one and much had been learnt during the visit.

At the Castle the following week the speaker was Mr E.N. Sharpe who gave an interesting lecture on Verulamium. Unlike Colchester, Roman St. Albans stands away from the modern city, and excavation has been unconfused by later occupation and destruction. The extensive site has attracted most of the great names in the archaeological world and work on a large scale has been possible, resulting in many notable additions to knowledge and spectacular discoveries. Reconstructions of the gates of the Roman city and a study of the walls yet remaining show the strength of the fortifications and the importance of the place, which was strategically placed for military and commercial purposes. The foundation of the Roman city, its destruction by Queen Boadicea (sic), its re-establishment and defence is parallel to the history of Colchester and Mr Sharpe played this comparison with good effect. The talk was well illustrated by original and published photographs, guides and maps.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February the Speaker was the honorary secretary, Mrs K. de Brisay, whose subject was "Early British Coins". The earliest coins were modeled on the prototype of Phillip II of Macedon, each tribal issue varying the classic design until it became almost unrecognizable. Most of these staters were of gold or silver and were of high value, circulating only among the aristocracy. Mrs de Brisay's talk was freely illustrated by sketches, which demonstrated the careful preparation. The story of the ancient tribes is still being pieced together by a study of the coinage, among which the coins of Tasciovanus and his more famous son, Cunobelin, figure largely. Cunobelin overcame lesser tribes in the south east of Britain and ruled from Colchester in the opening decades of the Christian era. The Colchester Museum has, therefore, a special interest in this ancient ruler, and many of his coins, minted at Colchester, and bearing his well known emblem of a wheat ear, were later exhibited to the members for examination. Mr F.H. Erith voiced the thanks of the appreciative audience, each one of whom, he said, had learned much from the address and study.

Mr Jack Lindsay, the well known author and archaeologist of Castle Hedingham was the guest speaker at the Group meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> February. Mr Lindsay has an infective enthusiasm which captured his audience as he described his archaeological prospecting by river bank and field, in valleys and on hill tops round the Hedinghams and the Belchamps, and, indeed, in every likely place, and a few unlikely ones too, where scholars or schoolboys pointed to sites where men once lived or worked. Of particular interest to members of the Group were his description of the discovery and excavation mediaeval potters' kilns, and the finding, at Gestingthorpe, of late Roman combed ware, and an extensive settlement. At the conclusion of the talk Mr Felix H. Erith expressed thanks to the speaker, who also answered many questions and displayed specimens of pottery found in the area and photographs of the kiln sites.

The meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March was held in the Castle Bookshop and members were privileged to see the greatest display of clay tobacco pipes ever mounted in Colchester. The display consisted of over a hundred examples covering over 350 years and included examples made in Colchester by fourteen different pipe makers. Also displayed were fragments of a pipe kiln recently discovered in the High Street, and consisting of broken stems and wasters laid lengthwise in a criss-cross fashion and fused together. There were also many 19th century decorated pipes, together with commemorative meerschaum pipes. The displays were described by Mrs A.D. Mansfield and Mr Leonard H. Gant, who also gave an account of the history of tobacco pipes and their manufacture. Another interesting item Mr Gant showed was a collection of small bobbin shaped articles made of pipe clay; these are now thought to be wig curlers and were made by the pipe makers in conjunction with their more usual trade. It was an enthralling evening and enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> March members visited Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, at the kind invitation of Mr & Mrs H.P. Cooper. Mr Cooper, the well-known farmer-archaeologist, gave a most interesting talk on his Roman-British settlement site, which appears to have a continuity of occupation throughout the whole of the 500 years of the Roman occupation of Britain and probably into the dark ages. The lecture was well illustrated by the projection of selected photographic

transparencies showing plans of the site and some of the many outstanding discoveries over recent years, which included an antler dual-purpose hoe, a unique bronze buckle from military equipment, a number of bronze and iron tools and some medical instruments. Following the lecture, the party was shown Mr Cooper's extensive collection of pottery, glass, metal and bone work and coins, which were admirably displayed and described. The great interest and value of a knowledge of archaeology amongst farmers and farm workers was referred to in a vote of thanks to the hosts expressed by Mr Leonard H. Gant, public relations officer of the Group. Refreshments, generously provided and served by Mr and Mrs Cooper before the party left for Colchester crowned and evening which will long be remembered.

The great ramparts and dykes which extend for some eighteen miles round Colchester and mark the perimeter of successive ancient settlements have never been fully explored, although many historical references to them are found in the muniments of the Borough. The earliest record of a perambulation of the liberties of Colchester is found in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century Latin note in the Oath Book, but further detailed accounts, also mentioned by Morant, are preserved from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Mr A.F. Hall, addressing the Group on last meeting of the session on the 28<sup>th</sup> March led his interested and enthusiastic audience in thought along these ancient boundaries. Many a cavalcade on horseback set out in years long past, he said, to beat the bounds, to note every tree, bank and ditch which from ancient times marked the limits of the liberties of Colchester, but in modern times this perambulation could not easily be undertaken, for destruction and neglect have levelled many of the vallum and the ancient landmarks have also disappeared. Much of the existing complex system of ramparts and ditches has, however, been studied, and Mr Hall has played no small part in this work, but much remains to be learned from excavation and observation; and with regard to the latter, Mr Hall asked members to keep their eyes open and to inform him if they discovered anything to throw fresh light on this enthralling aspect of local history.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE BULLETINS

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all those Archaeological Groups and Research committees who send us their Bulletins. These are much appreciated and are passed round our members who find much of interest in them. By this means, too, we gain friends and readers from many parts of the country who enjoy similar interests to ourselves. Please write more often and let us know if any of you should visit this ancient town - we shall be very pleased to welcome you.

#### PART TWO JUNE 1960

Our digging season opened as planned at Easter when work began on the first of two barrow rings on Mr. F. H. Erith's land at Vines Farm, Ardleigh. This Bulletin includes an account of this, illustrated by a drawing of the two cross sections. A plan and a report on the pottery will appear in our next issue. It is hoped to continue work on this site at weekends throughout the summer and details may be obtained from the Secretary or from the notice board in Mr. Doncaster's shop in Museum Street. Also in this issue is an illustrated article by Mr. Frank Girling F.S.A, on Essex Merchant marks and the first of our Notes and Comment feature - more are wanted for future Bulletins, please.

OUTING - unfortunately Mr. Brian Benham is in Hospital and the visit to Walton on Naze arranged for the 4th of July is cancelled. We all hope Mr. Benham will make a speedy recovery.

WALLBURY HILL FORT, GREAT HALLINGBURY. Members may like to be reminded that excavations will be in progress from July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 6th.

GROUP MEETING. Monday 5th. September - 7.15 p.m., at the Castle Bookshop, Museum Street, by kind invitation of Mr. A. B. Doncaster. This is to arrange the Winter Programme. Suggestions and volunteer speakers wanted.

All enquiries to Mrs. K. de Brisay, Hon. Soc., 89 Maldon Road, Colchester. Telephone 6207.

A LATE BRONZE AGE BARROW AT VINCES FARM, ARDLEIGH.

Some members of the Group were privileged to take part in a most interesting and rewarding excavation on Mr. Erith's land at Ardleigh during the Easter holiday.

The existence and discovery of this site was reported in the Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin Vol. II, No. 3, for September 1959. In an article entitled "Circular Crop-marks in the Ardleigh District", by Mr. F.H. Erith, there is a list of crop-marks of rings of taller corn discovered as a result of the 1959 drought. The ring in question is the second on the list. It had a diameter of twenty-one feet and the circumference was three feet wide. It is one of two similar and adjoining rings in a field containing six ring-marks and is about forty yards away from the two southernmost clusters of urns of the Late Bronze Age Cemetery of the Deverel Rimbury culture. In our last Bulletin, Vol. III., No. 1, there is a map by Lt. Cmdr. Farrands illustrating his aerial survey of this district and on this the ring under discussion is marked "D"

The field is called "Springhead" and consists of (i) topsoil, the present depth of which is twelve inches; (ii) sub-soil; containing about three parts of sand to one of clay, to a depth of four to six inches; and (iii) a hard pebbly gravel below the subsoil. Before the deep-ploughing of the last few years the topsoil was considerably less and the subsoil was, of course, correspondingly more than at present.

MARKING OUT AND EXCAVATION The site (G.R. TM.05552845) was marked by placing small pieces of asbestos sheeting at intervals in the circumference of the crop-mark and a piece of slate at the probable centre, before the corn was cut. After the harvest the site was marked out with pegs and twine for excavation according to the quadrant method so that the four baulks were exactly north, south, east and west; but the ground was so hard and dry that no digging could be done until the following Easter.

Mr. Erith had arranged for the topsoil of the four quadrants to be removed prior to our arrival so that the really important work could begin without delay. The first step was to level the four quadrants to the top of the subsoil. These were then systematically deepened, in the course of which many sherds of late Bronze Age pottery were found. Four trenches were then cut alongside the four baulks to show the structure from north to south and from east to west. These sections are illustrated on below and on which "X" indicates the centre of the quadrant. Finally the subsoil was removed revealing the stony gravel beneath. This showed a circular ditch, corresponding to the crop-mark, and a slighter central depression in which had been placed two urns of the Deverel Rimbury culture similar to those found in the Late Bronze Age cemetery in the adjoining field.

THE DITCH. The circular ditch was found to be about three feet deep, the lowest part having been cut into the hard gravel. The first (lowest) infilling was mostly of gravelly stones, but mixed with a layer of puggy clay about two inches thick, noticeably wetter than the rest. This pug was presumably caused by "puddling" – i.e. compression by treading either of people or cattle, or even of heavy rains. Sufficient anyway to act as a reservoir for rainwater, preventing it from draining away through the sand and gravel. It was this that gave the 1959 crop of barley the extra moisture which made the crop-mark. The ditch, slightly "U" shaped at the bottom, widened towards the top, the angle of slope being about 45 degrees. The remaining infilling consisted of soil with a fair admixture of stones. In the middle part, that is at a depth between twelve and twenty-five inches, were some three dozen sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery, similar in type to the two central urns.

THE CENTRAL FEATURE. A depression about four feet in diameter and some twenty inches deep had been made into the centre of the structure, cutting about four inches into the gravel. At the centre a globular urn of Ardleigh Late Bronze Age smooth ware had been placed mouth upwards. The urn contained fragments of cremated human bones. The upper part had been destroyed by ploughing. Three feet to the north-west of this urn lay a bucket urn of the Late Bronze Age placed mouth downwards, both urns resting on the same level. The gravel immediately below this latter urn, although compacted, was dirty with soil, showing that there had been some infilling prior to the urn being placed in position. Some suggestion of

disturbance in the subsoil immediately surrounding this vessel would lead one to think that this was a secondary burial.

THE STRUCTURE. Although the two urns were placed at roughly the same level, their heights were different, so that the globular urn would have been completely covered by some four inches of soil. The bucket urn, however, must have been considerably taller, judging by similar urns of like diameter from the adjoining urnfield. The base of this inverted urn then, must have projected slightly above ground level. Consequently a mound of some sort must have been found necessary to cover it, if indeed a mound had not already been erected previously for the other urn. It appears that the earth was dug out of the ditch to make a mound to cover those two burials and placed in the centre of the structure. The topsoil and subsoil would first have been dug, the gravelly stones would then have been dug out and placed on the top and sides. Consequently any seepage and silting would first consist of very stony, soil, and this was actually found at the bottom of the ditch.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BARROW. as mentioned before, sherds of late Bronze Age pottery were found in the infilling of the ditch at a depth of from twelve to twenty-five inches, that is to say, deeper than plough depth, but above the original bottom of the ditch. We can deduce from this that natural silting took place in the ditch up to eleven inches before levelling occurred. Several sherds came from urns other than those recovered suggesting that there were urns placed higher up in the mound at some later, but not very much later, date. When the mound was levelled, presumably for ploughing, fragments of those other urns, together with the upper parts of the two principal urns would have been carried into the middle depths of the ditch with the soil from the mound.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BARROW. This is the first instance, as far as we know, of Deverel Rimbury folk being buried in barrows in this district; previously they have only been found in urnfields. However, a very similar case is reported in the *Antiquaries Journal* Vol. XIII (1933) page 424 recording a barrow at Plaitford in Hampshire where a globular and bucket urn were found in close proximity near the centre as a primary burial.

The evidence from Bronze Age barrows in this district is extremely scanty, but from those which have been excavated there is one feature in common. This is that in every case so far there has been a dual internment. That is to say, in each case two burials of apparently the same period have been found in the same barrow, although one may have been primary and the other secondary. Those are listed below:

1. The excavation of a Bronze Age barrow at Dedham in 1958 by Mr. Brian Blake. The barrow contained two Middle Bronze Age collared urns, one being primary and the other secondary. *Colchester Archaeological Bulletin* Vol. I., No. 4., December 1958.
2. The excavation of a Bronze Age ring ditch, probably a barrow, at Great Bromley by H. J. Edwards and Mr. B.J.N. Edwards. Two graves were prepared but apparently never used. The two graves seemed to be of equal importance. *Colchester Archaeological Bulletin* Vol. II., No. 4., December 1959.
3. The excavation of a barrow near Lawford Hall in the early part of the nineteenth century. "In the neighbouring parish of Lawford are the ruins of a tumulus or barrow .... It was opened some seventy years since and two urns removed. The spot is now marked by a group of Scotch firs." *A History of Dedham*, by the Rev. C. A. Jones. 1907.
4. The subject of this present article.

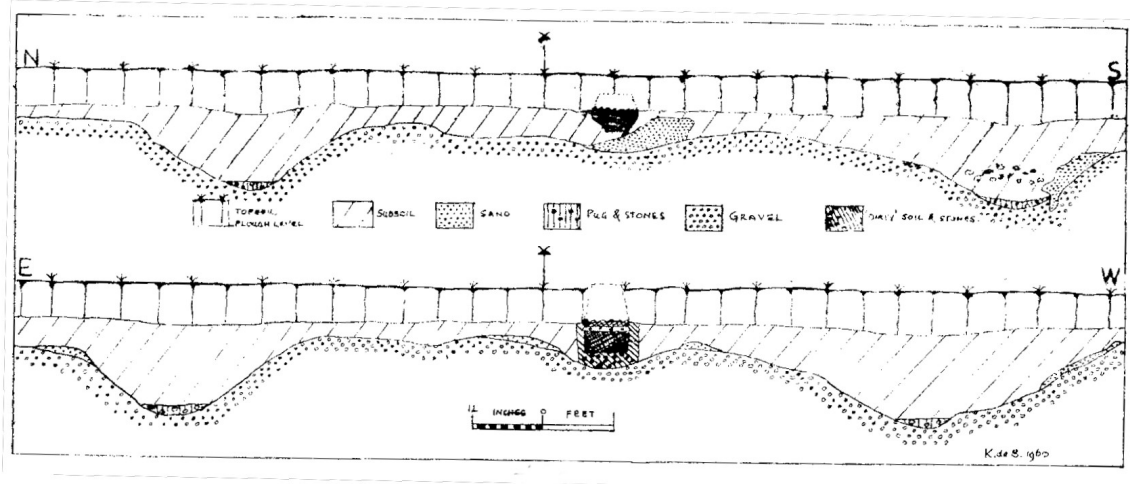
The two urns are now being treated in the Colchester Museum and it is hoped to publish descriptions and drawings of these in our next Bulletin together with any details of interest on the other pottery sherds and a plan of the barrow with the finds plotted on it.

We should like to thank Mr. F.H. Erith for enabling us to share such an exciting experience and to thank him too for directing operations with so much kindness and enthusiasm and also

for supplying all the necessary equipment. Our thanks are due too to Mr. M. R. Hull and to Mr. Brian Blake for their help and advice and to Mr. Frank Girling F.S.A. for his photography.

The following members of the Group were present at one time or another: Mr. L.H. Gant, Mr. H. J. Edwards, Mr. B. J. N. Edwards, Miss B. M. Erith, Mr. A. B. Doncaster, Mrs. Kendal, Peter Kendal, Lt. Commander R. H. Farrands, Mr. D. A. Langdon, Mr. H. W. Palmer, Jacqueline de Brisay, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Mr. A. D. Merson, Mr. O. P. Richardson.

## SECTIONS – ARDLEIGH – RING TWO



## NOTES & COMMENT.

1. SALARY BROOK. – Mr. A.F. Hall writes:- "Salary Brook is Taseleresbroke 1333. Probably so called from the family of Gilbert le Taselere 1300 and John Taseler of Wivenhoe 1375. There was a messuage of Taselers in Wivenhoe near Old Hythe Mead 1527 close to the mouth of the brook. The first Taselere must have been one who used a teazel in clothmaking. The modern form may be a corruption of "at Taslers brook".

2. SCOTCH FIRS ON ANCIENT SITES. - Mr. H. J. Edwards writes:- "Some years ago I was one of a party looking at the Town Walls in Land Lane when somebody remarked on the presence of Fir trees there and which so often occur on ancient sites. This saying remained dormant in my mind for a long time, but recently I have been looking into the matter. I find that Scotch firs undoubtedly do grow frequently on lines of earthworks even when no sign of a bank is now visible. So much so that now when I see firs I look for other signs of antiquity! Now I am no arboreal expert but I know enough to realise that the trees I see were not there in ancient times. They just do not live so long! What then is the explanation of their presence? Perhaps someone will enlighten me in a future Bulletin."

3. COURT KNOLL, NAYLAND. – Mr. D. A. Langdon writes:- "Court Knoll lies on the north bank of the Stour; G.R. 52979334. Local tradition maintains that the original village was on the knoll, which is at a level of a few feet above the surrounding "fennages" and something like fifteen foot or more above the present level of the river, which, as you will know, was at one time subject to flooding, periodically submerging part of Nayland. I have from time to time picked up pieces of building material and sherds on the site, and Mr. Harley, who has a small museum of local finds at Stoke by Nayland, has pieces of Roman and mediaeval building material found in Court Knoll. Mr. Sergeant, the Nayland postman, tells me a Colonel Dick dug there some years ago and found Roman remains. About the beginning of 1959 the late Air Commodore Chick went over the site with me and dowsed it, in some degree outlining what he said appeared to be the foundations of some buildings at the northern side of the knoll. As a matter of interest I find that when one produces the stretch of straight reputed Roman road running through Great Horkesley, this actually bisects Court Knoll. Air Commodore Chick also

remarked on the Roman track leading to the knoll from the Stour, and some pieces of pottery which he showed to Mr. Hull were pronounced by him to be "throw-offs" from a Roman kiln.

4. COLCHESTER PERAMBULATIONS. Mr. A. F. Hall asks if any members have been able to trace any new aspect to help him clarify the uncertainties in these ancient boundaries.

#### ESSEX MERCHANTS' MARKS.

by F.A. Girling, F.S.A .

As an introduction to the study of merchants' marks, illustrations are given of a number of marks, most of which can be seen in Essex. The marks which have survived were mostly used heraldically, carved on houses or on tombs, as an armigerous man would display his coat of arms. Few merchants possessed a coat of arms, and marks came to be used as a subsidiary kind of heraldry.

The marks used in commerce were painted on the outer coverings of bales of merchandise and branded on casks. They were ephemeral in character and would not normally be preserved. It was important that a mark could be made quickly with a few strokes of a brush and it was also necessary that it should be quite distinct from any other mark. The marks were used at first as marks of ownership or origin, but in time they became to be regarded as a guarantee of quality and so became the forerunners of the modern trade mark.

So that the subject of merchant marks may be viewed in perspective it is important to remember that they must be related to a wide European background rather than to a narrow insular one. They must too, be seen against a very much larger group of associated marks, as for example those used to indicate origin or workmanship or ownership. Marks used by goldsmiths, armourers, tapestry makers and masons are examples.

When merchant marks first came into use is not known, but there is evidence of them having been in use during the thirteenth century. They were, probably, invented by the Germanic peoples settled round the shores of the Baltic Sea and in Flanders. If this was so, they would have reached this country in the course of trade and merchants trading from east coast ports would have been among the first to use marks in their business. Many of the early marks may well be based on Runic characters.

Here the term "merchant mark" is used because it is generally understood to mean the sort of mark which is under discussion. Marks of this type were also used by people who were not merchants, and "personal mark" or "identity mark" would in many cases be better terms. Robert Royce in his "Breviary of Suffolk", 1618 refers to the mark of Thomas Spring of Lavenham as his "clothing mark". The term "Fell mark" was used in the sixteenth century by members of the Johnson family, merchants of London and Calais.

#### Notes on the Illustrations. (See below pp. 20-21)

No. 1. John Beriffe, died 1496.

No. 2. John Beriffe, died 1521.

These two marks are from brasses on the grave slabs in the Beriffe chapel in Brightlingsea church. The family seem to have been ship owners and merchants. One of their houses survives. It is the fine timber-framed house in High Street, known as "Jacobes" and probably dates from about 1500.

Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are marks which still exist in Coggeshall.

No 3 is the mark of George Laurance who died in 1594. It is on a small memorial brass in the church and the inscription says of him that he was "sometyme clothier of this town". No 4 is carved on an exterior beam of a house in Church Street. Its owner is unknown. In passing, it may be noted that marks with a heart-shaped base are more frequently found in Italy and

Spain than in northern Europe. No. 5 is the mark of the Paycocke family who lived in Coggeshall during the fifteenth century and whose enterprise as clothiers brought prosperity to the place. The mark occurs, carved in wood, both inside and on the exterior of Paycocke House and also on grave slabs in the church. No. 6 probably represents Thomas Clark. It is carved on an exterior beam of a house in Church Street which has the date 1565.

No 7 is the mark of the Webbe family who were important clothiers at Dedham. They contributed funds for the building of the church, and the mark is to be seen, carved in stone, in the richly decorated vault of the passage under the tower, which dates from about 1500. It occurs again on the Webbe tomb in the north aisle. This mark is of an early type and representative of those marks which are thought to have been based on runes.

No. 8. This mark is on the central terra cotta boss in the vault of the south porch of Feering church. It dates from the early decades of the sixteenth century, and is presumably, the mark of the donor of the porch. Is it possible that records exist which would reveal his name?

Nos. 9 and 10 are the marks of James Tayspell and Giles Tayspell respectively, and occur on their Colchester half-penny tokens, dated 1668, and now in the Colchester Castle Museum.

No. 11. Owner unknown, c.1500. It occurs on a wall monument, now in All Saints Natural History Museum, and was formerly in St. Runwald's Church.

No, 12. Unknown. Lower Dairy Farm, Little Horkesley, carved on an exterior beam. The central "H" probably represents the initial letter of the owner's surname. The "I" is the initial letter of his baptismal name, and often represents the letter "J". The letter "K" is the initial letter of the wife's Christian name.

Nos. 13, 14 and 15. Unknown. In the nave at Heybridge church, carved on wooden brackets to the tie-beams. Probably fifteenth century. It is possible that the sketches may not be absolutely accurate. It is very difficult to see the marks, for the light is poor and the colour of the wood is dark.

No. 16. Richard Darnell, c. 1520. Carved in stone in the spandrels over the doorway of the south porch of Mistley Old Church, Mistley Heath. These should be compared with similar marks carved in the spandrels of the north door of East Bergholt Church, Suffolk, of which Richard Darnell was also a benefactor.

No. 17. John Gresham, died 1555. Glass, Ilford Hospital.

No, 18. Robert Barfott, mercer, 1546. On his brass in Lambourne church.

No. 19. Maldon, Unknown, now lost.

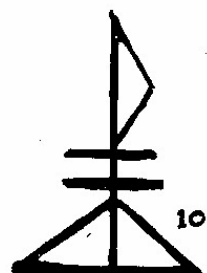
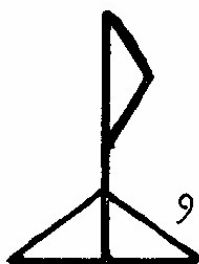
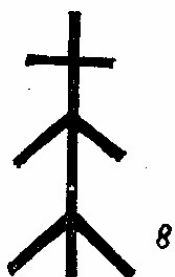
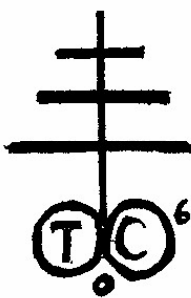
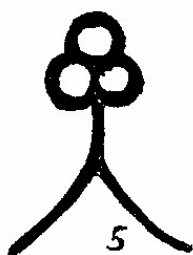
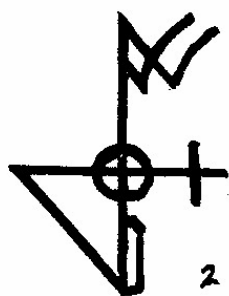
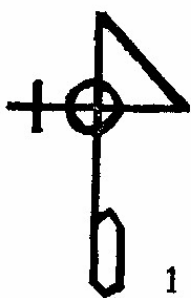
No. 20. Robert Barwell, clothier, of Witham, c.1665. This mark is recorded by Elmhirst.

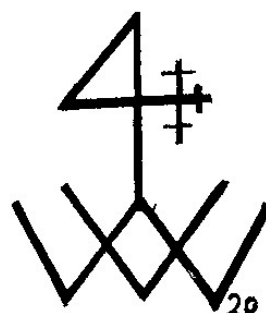
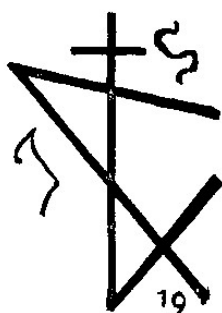
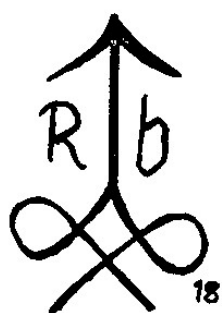
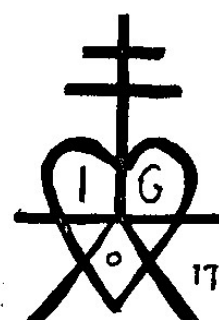
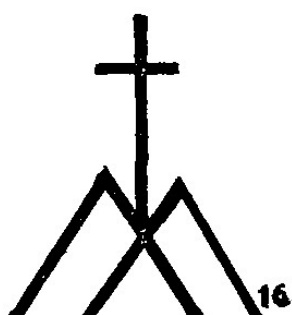
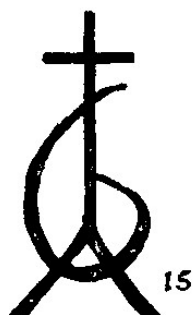
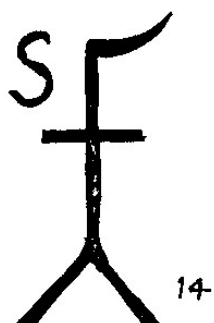
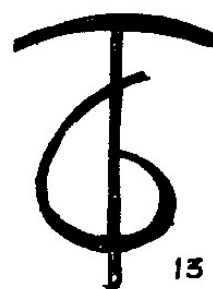
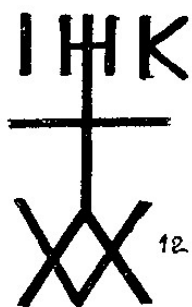
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Marks are liable to turn up in unexpected places, as for example a collection of marks cut on a beam over a fireplace at Blakeney, which have recently been uncovered. Marks scratched on pillars in churches are probably sometimes proper personal marks but sometimes marks invented at the time by a scribbler. However they are worth recording.

There must be a great number of marks surviving in Essex with which I am unacquainted. Should any member know of a mark, and would communicate its whereabouts, I should be most grateful.

Holly Lodge, Lawford, Manningtree. May, 1960.





PART 3 SEPTEMBER 1960

We must apologise for the delay in bringing out this issue. This has been due to some difficulties in arranging our Winter meetings. Unfortunately it will not be possible to meet at the Castle as before on account of staff problems and we should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the facilities afforded us in the past.

Group meetings this Winter will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Shewell Road, Colchester, except where otherwise stated. We think this will prove a comfortable and convenient place to meet and readily accessible to the Bus and Car Parks. Meetings will be on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. beginning on the 10th of October. A detailed programme is given below.

This issue contains a further article on the Late Bronze Age barrow at Ardleigh, which we have called Ring Two. This is of particular interest as it is the first recorded case of a globular urn of this period to be described. A full report on Ardleigh Ring One will appear in our December Bulletin. Also in this issue is an article by Mr. L.H. Gant on the Joslins/Tesco site, High Street, Colchester; miscellaneous notes and account of other Group activities during the Summer.

Contributions and enquiries may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs, K, de Brisay, 89, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex. Telephone 6207 (evenings.)

WINTER PROGRAMME – 1960-60  
All at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

10th. October - Mr. F.H. Erith - Late Bronze Age pottery.

17th.     "     - Mr. L.H. Gant - Mediaeval glass.

24th.     "     - Alderman L. E. Dansie - Tour of the Town Hall. **MEET IN VESTIBULE.**

31st.     "     - Mr. B.J.N. Edwards - subject to be announced.

7th. November - Mr. A. B. Doncaster - The Lost Villages.

14th.     "     - Mr. H.J. Edwards - "Pot-wholing" or "Pots & Clay".

21st.     "     - Proposed visit to Pebmarsh W.E.A. Class on The Bronze Age by Mr. Longworth - details to be announced.

28th.     "     - Miss Tessa Stratton - Mediterranean Archaeological Sites.

5th. December - Visit to Mr. Jack Lindsay to see his Greco-Roman collection. Meet outside the Public Library at 6.30 p.m.

12th.     "     - FILM SHOW at St. Peter's Parish Hall, North Hill, Colchester.

Britain                             1. THE BEGINNINGS OF HISTORY - describing life in prehistoric  
and                                     using photographs of archaeological finds, of ancient sites  
   reconstructions.

   2. THE ROMAN WALL (colour) - a study of the construction and  
   purposes of Hadrian's Wall.

Refreshments - admission 2/6 by ticket from the Hon Secretary.  
Friends and relations welcome.

The second part of the Winter Programme will begin on Monday, the 9th. of January, 1961 and will continue weekly, concluding with the Annual General Meeting on Monday the 13th, of March 1961.

Detailed programme will appear in our December Bulletin.

ARDLEIGH - RING TWO - (Contd.)

THE POTTERY - No. 2 Barrow - or Ring Two - was the first one excavated. The pottery consisted of two primary Late Bronze Age urns and fragments of further LBA urns were scattered all over the barrow.

The first primary urn lay in the centre of the barrow, the lowest portion (the base) being only 16 inches below the present surface. This was a globular urn ('A' on the plan on page 24 and illustrated on page 25), but only the lower four inches had survived as ploughing to a depth of twelve inches had demolished the top portions. However, several bits of the central groove and one piece of the top rim were found nearby; and guided by similar urns found in the adjoining cemetery, we think we have been able to reconstruct the shape of this urn. It is possible that it had small handles, as a piece was found with a hole cut in it, as if to take the end of a handle. The ware was hard and thin, as in the other globular urns from Ardleigh, but was permeated with white grits showing on the outside as well as in the interior. This is the first globular urn to be found made with white grits.

The other primary urn lay three feet away to the N,E. It was a LBA bucket urn placed upside down, the lowest portion (the rim) being eighteen inches below the present surface. Ploughing had demolished all but the lowest six inches. (Marked 'B') This urn was 16½ inches in diameter and was two-thirds to three quarters of an inch thick. Five inches below the rim was the usual encrusted LBA band, both rim and band being impressed with a row of finger-tipping. Between them the sides of the urn were decorated with vertical rows of finger-tipping about two inches apart. Irregular finger-tipping was also present below the band. The ware was rather coarse, with occasional minute particles of white grit. The colour was brown on the outside, black on the inside, and coke-like between.

There were nearly forty finds of LBA pottery shards scattered about in the barrow the positions of which are recorded on the plan on page 24, where the depth of each is given in inches. A detailed record is available. It is possible that some of these shards belonged to the demolished portions of the primary urns. Most, however, could not have belonged to either of the two primaries, and an analysis of these shards shows that there must have been at least three other urns of the LBA placed in this barrow as secondaries, (See illustrations on page 25.)

URN No. 3. This bucket urn of pink ware with large white grits. Diameter about 11 ins. thickness 7/16 to ½ inch, Finger-tipped rim with sides pitted with occasional circular indentations of about ¼ inch diameter and about 1 inch apart.

Find 16 - (SW) 20 (SE) 22(SE) and 34 (NW) - all rims.

Find 11 - (NW) find 20 (SE) sides with circular indentations.

Find 21 - (SE) and 28 (NE) also seem to belong to this urn.

URN No. 4. Plain bucket urn with finger-tipped band. Diameter about 10 ins., about ½ inch thick.

Find 9(SW) 15 (SW) and 18 (SE) showing finger-tipped band.

Find 17 (SW) shows turn of base.

Find 25 (SE) and 36 (SE) show plain sides.

URN No. 5. Large bucket urn with finger-tipped band and rim but otherwise plain (or only very slightly finger-tipped) Diameter 16 - 17 inches and thickness ½-¾ inch. No white grits in ware.

Find 2 (NE) 27 (NE) and 37 (NE) showing rim (all fired very black)

Find 14 (SW) 24 (SE) 31 (NW) and 37 (NE) showing finger-tipped band.

Find 8 (SW) 13 (SW) and 29 (NW) could also belong to this urn.

Finds 26 (NE) and 30 (SW) could belong to either urn 4 or 5.

Finds 1, 3, 6, 10, and 32, could belong to the primary globular urn.

Find 23 was of thin grey ware, Iron Age C or Roman, found at a depth

of 14 inches. This presumably indicates that the Barrow ditch had silted up considerably, but the Barrow itself had not been levelled at this period.

The evidence from this pottery shows that the Barrow contained two primary (or a primary and a second primary) burials in Late Bronze Age urns.

There may well have been more than three secondary urns, as the sherds were found in all quarters of the Barrow; but, as this pottery was made by hand, it is quite possible to have differences in thickness, curve and colour all belonging to the same urn.

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THE BONES. - The fragments of cremated bones from the globular urn were shown to Mr. E. P. Spencer, of the Ipswich Museum. He stated that, although there were no fragments which could unhesitatingly be assigned to one of the sexes, the fineness of the bones suggested that they belonged to a female. Also some twenty-five fragments were extremely thin, inferring that they belonged to a young child.

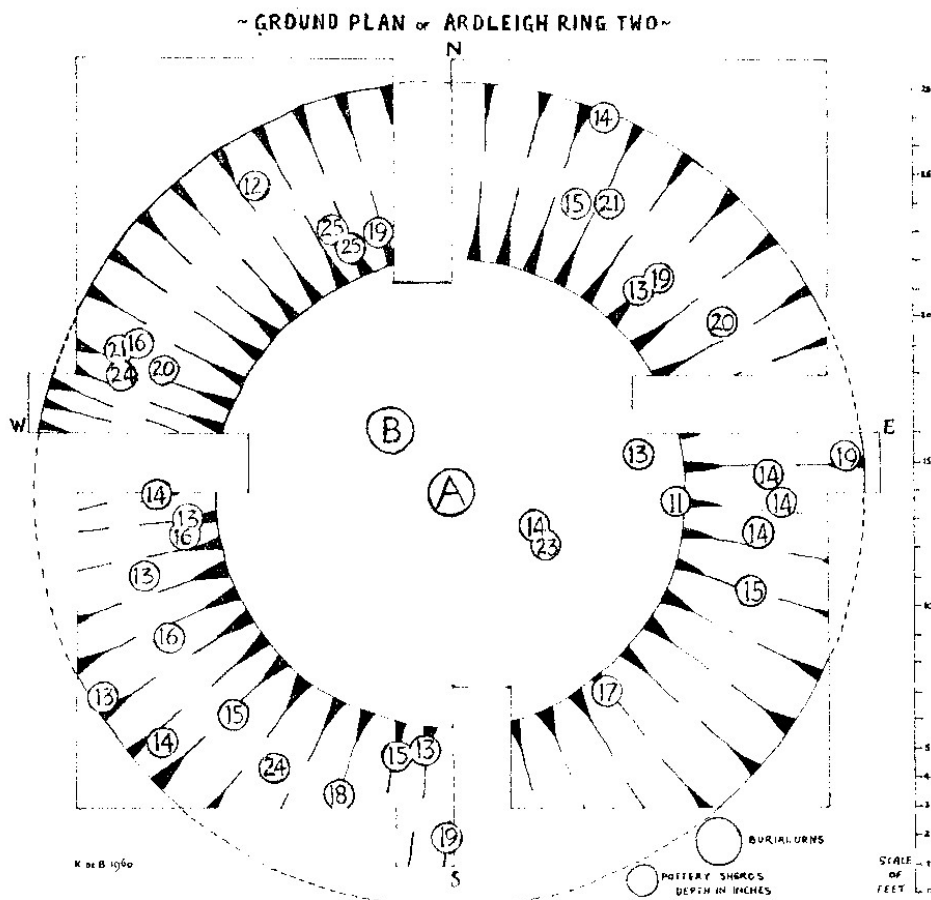
The bones belonging to the bucket urn were unfortunately lost in the muddle caused by the alterations going on at the Colchester Castle Museum.

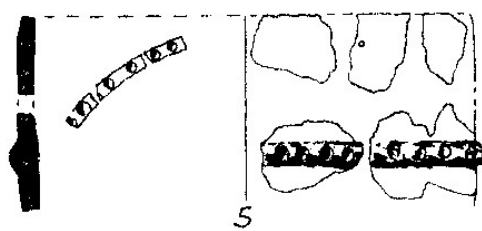
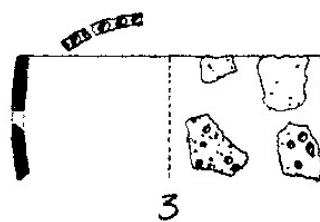
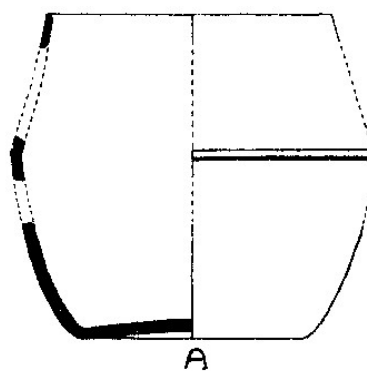
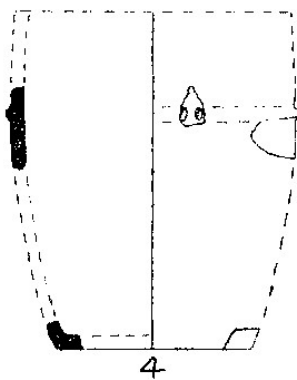
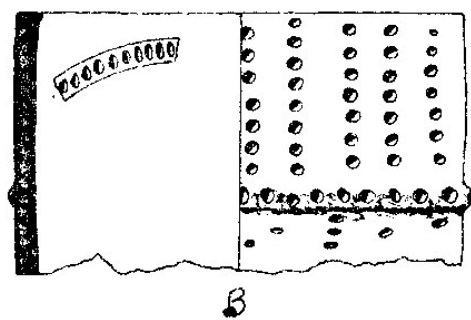
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AMENDMENT - we regret there was an error in the scale of the chart showing the sections of Ardleigh Ring Two on page 25 of this Bulletin vol. II No. 2. - June 1960.

For 1 foot please read 2 foot.

For 12 inches please read 24 inches.





THE JOSLINS/TESCO SITE IN COLCHESTER  
by Leonard H. Gant

The complete demolition during the winter of 1959/60 of premises occupying a corner site of High Street and Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Grid Ref. TL 99782525, formerly occupied by Messrs. Joslin Limited, Ironmongers, would have been of great archaeological interest had the site been more extensively excavated, for the premises were fronting the main street and in a position near the centre of the Roman town.

The old half-timbered, brick and plastered buildings were replaced by a modern building which demanded footings for walls to west, north and east of the site only, the central area being levelled and spanned by steel girders. This excavation was taken to an average depth of only four feet and was insufficient to observe a true section, except on the north boundary, where the sewer connection necessitated a deeper trench. Sherds of early pottery were reported to have been found at this point, but only those of 16th, or 17th, century were examined and identified by me.

The original cellars were filled in with rubble, piers of reinforced concrete being built to support the girders, but I made an inspection of these before filling in, and indeed, of the whole original buildings before the work of demolition began.

It was observed that the cellars beneath the High Street shops were constructed of rubble and stone up to the line of adjacent buildings, but 19th. century encroachment had enlarged the cellars. The red brick additions ran partly under the street pavement, and included a cellar opening into High Street.

It was usual for traders to display their wares on the pavement before the advent of large plate glass windows, and some High Street kerb stones still show the holes into which poles supporting protective awnings were placed.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Vol. 3, N.E. Essex, page 58, gives an early 16th. century date for the High Street house and shop - the chief feature of this period being an enormous chimney which supported the timber frame not only of the house under examination, but also of the house immediately to the west, which I was also able to examine.

This chimney had fireplaces with familiar Tudor brick depressed arches on ground, first and second floor levels; the first floor fireplace was retained when a large bake oven was added about 1700. The house and shop were then entirely remodelled and the ground floor shop area increased by the incorporation of adjoining premises in Maidenburgh Street.

The centre ornament of a fine moulded ceiling was removed from the room facing south on the first floor, and is now re-erected and preserved in the Holly Trees Museum, as a memorial to the late Mr. Duncan W. Clark, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., a smaller contemporary ceiling, formerly over the main staircase, is also preserved in Mr. Kenneth Mabbitt's house a 71 High Street, Colchester.

The chimney was cut back to make room for the new west wall, but the foundations in the cellars remain, also the original work in the adjoining premises. This partial demolition provided one or two interesting, though not very ancient objects, which were found in the flues and recesses of the chimney piece. These included a number of clay tobacco pipes, dating from 1700 - 1720, a receipt for £8 13s. Land Tax on houses situate in the parish of Myland, a handbill advertising the appearance of "an Italian, who plays a variety of Italian Airs, and with his feet makes two small figures show several surprising postures, dances, etc." The final paragraph of the address to his audience, which forms the subject of the pamphlet or handbill, headed with the Royal Arms of Geo. I, informs the reader that "He makes and sells Barometers and Weather-Houses, wholesale or retale, and also mends old ones".

A parchment page torn from an account book, which recorded the receipt of a number of sacks of merchandise and was totalled at the foot, with a note "Reckned and Lefft Due 01. 09.

00", but on the reverse a note written as follows: "...rs. Tisson. I desir you Will come to my House to play for I Shall have a Good Deal of Company. Your sarvent to Command Will Rofe." A small child's shoe and a home-made hunting crop were also found in the chimney.

On the east side of the site, by Maidenburgh Street, a deep pit or tank of concrete and brick was found. This appeared to be a soft water tank, which was fed by wooden troughing.

The Joslin site consisted of three former tenements, the High Street/Maidenburgh Street corner property, and two further tenements running down the latter street. The numbering of the premises facing High Street suggest a division into two shops, for this property bears the numbering 108 -109.

The rebuilding in 1700 concerned only the High Street property, the remaining two along Maidenburgh Street remaining, probably until re-built in red brick in the 19th. C.

At the map reference given at the beginning of this article (chosen for its central position) there was found a clay tobacco pipe maker's kiln, but as the site was levelled by a bulldozer, it is remarkable that anything survived at all! I did recover, however, a number of pieces of the seggar, or inner chamber in which the clay pipes were fired. The walls were composed of many hundreds of stem and bowl fragments from broken or rejected clay pipes and an examination of these showed the kiln maker used Dutch type pipes and stems to make his seggar wall. Three distinctive types of pipe, dating from 1680 - 1720 were found, including one type not previously recorded in Colchester. A scatter of rejects and broken pipes in the area were impressed with the initials "I.S." but intensive search has failed to definitely identify this pipe maker. However, the County Archivist has found a reference in Essex Wills to a John Austine, who died in 1692 and our "J.A." may well be of this family, for the spelling of his name suggests his Flemish origin and it is known that many pipe makers migrated from London to the provinces in the latter quarter of the 17th. century. Inquiry of Mr. Adrian Oswald, the foremost expert on clay tobacco pipes cannot place this man, but a John Anderson was working at Hull in the early 18th. century. The pipes he produced appear to have been a type showing Dutch influence, and were the transitional form leading up to the familiar "churchwarden" pipe of the mid 18th. century. A likely source of search is not at present available - the registers of St. Nicholas parish church. It seems strange that those important registers have never been copied; they are now closely guarded by the incumbent, and are therefore in safe keeping.

The name of Joslin has now passed from the business life of Colchester, but it is honoured in archaeological circles, for George Joslin amassed a collection of Roman and other antiquities in the mid 19th. century which not only rivalled, but, it is said, outshone the Museum exhibits. This collection, which made the foundation for the comprehensive collection of Romano-British antiquities now exhibited, was purchased by the Corporation for £1,000. He also served the Borough for many years and was churchwarden of St. Nicholas's church, being buried there. His tombstone may yet be found out of context closely grouped with others at the rear of St. Nicholas House, in Culver Street.

#### EVENING TOUR OF COLCHESTER.

It was a very happy thought of our honorary secretary to suggest a tour of our own town under the friendly and expert guidance of Alderman Leonard E. Dansie, J.P., F.S.A., whose interest and infective enthusiasm for Colchester's unrivalled historical and architectural heritage is well known. His recent public lecture demonstrated the great interest in the history of this, the oldest recorded town in Britain, and the capacity audience in the Moot Hall was proof of the popularity both of the subject and the man, whose career as councillor, mayor and alderman of the Borough is an example of Municipal service. The restoration of the Dutch Quarter will always be linked with his name, and he enjoys showing people the colourful and attractive houses which have created a focal point of interest far beyond Colchester, comparable, in some respects with the Elm Hill restoration in Norwich, but more practical in

that the local restored houses are re-let at economic rents and therefore preserve the essential residential tradition of the neighbourhood.

However, to begin at the beginning: the Group members were met by Alderman Dansie at the Castle Gates on Monday evening, 13th. June, and for over two hours the party walked and talked, climbed stairs and ramparts, attentively listened to the guide and discussed points of interest.

The Museum Street gates to the Castle Park display the old style Borough Arms which were registered with the College of Heralds in 1558 and used until the beginning of this century when the older form, shown on the Cowdray Gates, by which the party left the Park, was adopted, largely as a result of the researches and influence of the late Sir Gurney Benham. The original form shows the three Holy Nails and the cross raguly vert is joined centrally by a fylfot, to denote the distribution of the Cross of Calvary, which it represents, by Saint Helena. (See Borough & County Arms - W, Gurney Benham)

Past the Gate House (16th. cent.) which has a panel on the s. front bearing the initials "W.S." under "B" - for William and Sarah Boys, and the adjoining Winsley's House, noted for its window and door labels (17th cent.) to the parish church of St. James, which, to quote our guide, has probably the best interior of any church in the town.

The small figure brasses to the Maynard family (16<sup>th</sup> cent.) are happily re-united with their matrices in the choir and these, together with the pre-reformation stone altar recently set up in the s. aisle, were greatly admired. A note on this altar appears in this Bulletin under "Notes and Comment."

To the diminishing sound of choirboys singing the lovely Mass of John Merbecke we climbed the narrow spiral staircase of the west tower to the clock and bell chamber, where our campanologist vice-chairman felt really at home and shamed many younger members by his agility among the bell frames! Mr. Dansie pointed out the inscribed Miles Graye bell (dated 1622), which also bears the representation of the old Borough Arms. After examining the bell frames, Mr. F. H. Erith declared that five bells had been hung in the tower, although records list only two.

Crossing the East Hill to Land Lane, the members walked round the n.e. angle of the Roman Wall and through the Castle Park, noting en route the remains of a Roman house, excavated by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, whose interest in archaeology sprung from his experiences and observations in Colchester during the World War 1914 - 18, when he served in the Colchester Garrison as a subaltern in the Royal Artillery.

Leaving the Castle Park by the Maidenburgh Lane gate, pausing to hear of the two ancient monuments at that point - the Roman temple precinct wall and the covering Norman rampart - the Group arrived in the Dutch Quarter, viewing in passing, the town's earliest surviving christian place of worship - the little chapel of St. Helen, which is set on a foundation of Roman material, possibly of Roman date and certainly pre-Norman.

St. Martin's church, between the two Stockwell Streets, and approached by way of Quakers' Alley, has many architectural features, but, being closed, for it is now used as a cultural centre, attention was directed to the huge Sparling tomb, with its finely worded memorial panels.

Passing the Town Hall, the original cast iron doors, hung in the short-lived Victorian building, and the lamp standards before them, now giving access to the law Courts were noted. At the "top of the town", passing through the old Dutch Bay Hall, now the offices of the Essex & Suffolk Insurance Society, the wonderful south door of the church of St. Peter was seen. This iron bound door, attributed to Thomas de Leighton (Bazzard) dates from the 15th cent. and is both described and illustrated in R. Comm. of Hist. Mon. Essex, vol. III, page 42.

The last place of interest to be visited in this interesting itinerary was the Roman Balkerne Gate - one of the finest Roman remains in Britain. This was viewed from the road, and later

from within, after negotiating the shady paths through the shrubberies of St. Mary's rectory. On the way through the "jungle" the Roman wall was seen - here at eaves height of the house outside the wall in Balkerne Lane, The carriage and foot ways of the gate and the south guardroom, quadrant shaped, were examined and the reaction of many members was firstly "couldn't we do something to clean up the place" and secondly "what a pity this monument is kept locked up",

#### NOTES & COMMENT.

1. FOSSIL FIND. – Mr. L. H. Gant writes:- " During site preparation on the Prettygate building estate a beautiful fossil was found by workmen in the gravel layer, only 18 ins. beneath the surface. The fossil is one of the numerous group of cretaceous sea urchins and, because of its circular shape and jewel like appearance, is called pseudodiaderma. The fossil is only five eighths of an inch in diameter, with a central boss of darker flint than the delicately ribbed and rounded body. The group of fossils to which this specimen belongs is many millions of years old, being deposited on the ocean bed when most of the world as we now know it was submerged".

2. MEDIAEVAL POTTERY - contributed by F. H. Erith. Deep ploughing in this locality has this year enabled me to take five lots of mediaeval pottery to the Castle Museum.

(i) As a result of investigating a dark patch - the size of a tennis court - in a ploughed field between Dedham Mill and Stratford church. This appeared to have been a dwelling that had been burnt. Parish of Stratford St. Mary. GR,52/055340.

(ii) Mr. John Girling noticed a dark patch in a newly ploughed field between Alresford church and Creek. Vast quantities of oyster shell accompanied pottery and tile at this site, which appears to have been some sort of dwelling. Parish of Alresford. GR,52/065204.

(iii) As a result of investigating a dark patch (20 paces by 10) in a newly ploughed field opposite the "Wooden Fender" at Ardleigh. The field is farmed by Messrs. R. Latta and Sons. A mill-stone of queer conglomerate structure and orange white in colour, also came from this site, which seems to have been a dwelling. Parish of Ardleigh. GR. 52/045289.

(iv) A telephone call from Mrs. Aggiss, near Holbecks, Hadleigh, Suffolk, whose children had found pottery near their farmhouse. This was in very heavy clay in a most remote spot, and consisted of part Roman and part Mediaeval pottery. Perhaps a kiln. Parish of Layham. GR.52/008416.

(v) My tractor driver, Mr. Frank Brand, was ploughing up a field which had been laid down to grass for over ten years. This was rather heavy land and more than half a mile away from the Roman and Prehistoric sites of Vincles Farm. He discovered grey unglazed pottery near the Lawford Lane. An area about 5 by 2 paces held traces of ash and red daub, suggesting a primitive hut-site. Parish of Ardleigh GR.52/065283.

3. MEDIAEVAL ALTAR AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH. from Mr. L. H. Gant. A mediaeval chamfered stone altar, marked with five deeply cut consecration crosses signifying the Five Wounds of Christ, has been re-erected in the south aisle of the parish church of St. James, East Hill, Colchester, Writing in a recent parish magazine the Rector, Canon M.M. Martin M.A., R.D., stated that he proposed to call it the altar of St. Martin, for it came from that church in West Stockwell Street which was made redundant by the Church Re-organisation Scheme and is now restored and used as a cultural centre. The grey stone altar is believed to have come originally from the church of St. Runwald, demolished in 1878 which formerly stood in the centre of High Street at the western end of the Middle Row, opposite the old Angel Inn. The site of the Norman church is marked by an inscribed stone in the roadway, now partly obscured by a telephone kiosk. The churchyard of St. Runwalds church may still be seen a short distance down West Stockwell Street and this was pointed out by Alderman

L.E. Dansie when he acted as guide to a number of members of the Group on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

4. CHAPEL BARN - Mr. Jack Stringer telephoned the secretary early one morning to ask for details of Chapel Barn, Nayland. It appears he is making a study of old timbers. After many enquiries it appeared that the building he wanted is at Bures as no trace of anything like it could be found at Nayland. Any information on this will be welcome.

5. DENE HOLES IN ESSEX. an enquiry has been received about these. If anyone has any knowledge of these would they please let the secretary know so that the information may be passed on.

6. ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP BULLETIN - City of Bradford - members may like to be reminded that this excellent monthly Bulletin may be obtained from the Cartwright Memorial Hall Museum, Bradford, price 8d, post free, This publication is always full of interest with some particularly attractive drawings.

THE BALKERNE GATE.  
by A. B. Doncaster.

During the Group's tour of the Town with Mr. Dansie in June, comment and criticism were made about the state of the Balkerne Gate, which appeared as if it had been used as a Municipal rubbish dump. On the suggestion of our secretary, Mrs. de Brisay, a letter was sent to the Museum Committee who gave permission for the Group to clean it up.

On a warm sunny evening on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, seven members met at the Balkerne Gate, armed with spades, brushes, choppers, sickles and rakes - the usual archaeological paraphernalia - and proceeded to start work. First taking off the long grass and weeds and cutting down thistles and nettles; then grubbing out elder and sycamore stubs and putting all the rusty tins, broken bottles, old ironmongery etc, in sacks for removal - this time without the usual labelling and recording of each item! The brick steps from the south Guard Room were excavated and cleaned and the south footway cleared and swept. At the bottom of the steps to the latter a piece of new-looking concrete was found on which the following inscription was rudely scratched: THIS WAS LADE IN 19-56 BY F. SMITH. D. GIBSON." The only sherds found were three fragments of black Roman ware and part of a round amphora handle.. After two hours of hard work the site looked reasonably clean and tidy and we packed up and departed.

May we make here a plea for the opening up of the Balkerne Gate, one of the "show-pieces" of the town. On many working sites in London and the larger cities building contractors have provided "observation platforms" for the use of the general public. Why not follow this example and make an observation platform from which the Gate could be seen from advantage? A broach in the railings in Balkerne Passage, steps leading up to the existing mound overlooking the site and a suitable fence around the proposed platform is all that would be required. Would it not be a nice turn of events if this could be officially opened by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, the original excavator of the Gate in 1917, when he visits Colchester in October for the Centenary Celebrations of the Colchester Castle Museum?

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NOTE E 1. - Mr. H. J. Edwards has suggested that a Corporation litter bin be provided - this has duly been passed on.

NOTE 2. - an appreciative letter has been received from Mr. Dansie who also says how nice it would be if a similar clear out could be done in the northern part of the Gate behind the gratings. This is a smaller area and no doubt can be dealt with in due course.

#### PART FOUR DECEMBER 1960

This issue marks the end of our third year. The Group now numbers over eighty individual members and some twenty Societies and official organisations receive our Bulletin regularly.

The first series of Winter meetings ended on the 12th. of December with a film show and social. Reports on the other meetings are included in this Bulletin and the programme for the second series, beginning on the 9th, of January is given on page . The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 13th. March 1961.

The outstanding event of this Autumn has been the illustrated lecture by Professor C. F. C. Hawker on Bronze Age and Iron Age Problems of the Colchester Region. Over sixty members and their friends enjoyed this stimulating experience. See page .

On pages 32 to 34 a full report of the Bronze Age barrow which we call Ardleigh Ring One appears, together with a plan and drawings of the sections. Also included is another report by Mr. L. H. Gant on a reconstruction site in Colchester, and the usual notes and comments.

Articles for inclusion in this Bulletin and all enquiries may be addressed to Mrs. K. de Brisay, 89 Maldon Road, Colchester. Telephone 6207 (Evenings).

#### WINTER PROGRAMME 1961.

Unless otherwise stated all meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House, Shewell Road, Colchester, at 7.30 p.m.

9th. January	John Bensusan Butt will show us the Harsnett Library. Meet at the Public Library. 7.30 p.m.
16th. "	Major A. D. Mansfield on "Maps and the Map-maker".
23rd. "	Mrs Mansfield on "The Painted Caves"
30th. "	The Rev. L. H. Gosney on "Heraldry".
6th. February	Mr, L. H. Gant on "Clay Tobacco Pipes as an archaeological cross reference."
13th. "	Mr, B. J. N. Edwards on "Medieval Pottery".
20 <sup>th</sup> . "	Mr. A. B. Doncaster on "The Lost Villages".
27th. "	Mr. F. L. Girling F.S.A. on "Merchant Marks". This talk, which will be illustrated, will be held in the Public Library at 7.30 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup> . March	Mr. J. S. Appleby F.R.Met.S. on "You, Your History & the Weather".
13th. "	Annual General Meeting. At the close of the business meeting it is hoped to show some coloured slides on the evolution of pottery.

NOTE - from Mr. H. J. Edwards who writes:- A query arising out of our recent Meeting dealing with pottery. Many Romano-British kilns have been excavated and recorded and much pottery described and exhibited; but can anyone tell me if any potters' tools or equipment have been so noted? If so, where can the report be read or the exhibits seen?

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:- the bull-dozer and demolition squad are an all too familiar sight these days and we ask members to follow Mr. Gants example and to report any finds and other details on such sites so that these may be recorded in our Bulletin. In years to come this may be the only source of information available.

### ARDLEIGH – RING ONE 1960

#### THE EXCAVATION OF THE SECOND LATE BRONZE AGE BARROW AT VINCES FARM

The excavation of the first Ring Ditch having shown that it was a barrow of the late Bronze Age, we proceeded to tackle the second and adjoining ring ditch.

This site had been similarly marked before the corn had been cut for the 1959 harvest and marked out for excavation on the quadrant method with the baulks on the same north-south, east-west alignments.

The crop mark showed similar measurements:- twenty-two feet in diameter with a circumference three feet thick, but this crop mark was far more pronounced, the corn being much taller.

Mr. Erith had arranged for the topsoil to be removed from the four quadrants before we arrived, so that again the first job was to trowel these down to plough depth (twelve inches) and then to dig trenches alongside the baulks so that the sections crossing the ditch north-south and east-west could be observed and drawn; excepting, of course, the central area, four feet square, where the baulks met and which was done later.

#### THE DITCH.

Observations at the four places where the ditch was seen in section showed that this was four feet deep and was steep sided except for the lowest foot which tapered to four foot three inches at the bottom. This ditch tended to be steep and V shaped, whereas the other was U shaped and sloping. Evidence of treading or of a clay-pug bottom was not so marked as in the other barrow but a seam of hard hoggin near the lower part of the ditch acted as a natural water container. The infilling of the ditch was practically pure soil, free of stones. At one place, ten inches from the bottom of the ditch, there was evidence of a fire, there being wood-ash in an area 16 inches by 2½ inches by ½ inch deep. See sections on page 33.

#### THE CENTRAL FEATURE

Right in the centre of the barrow a hole, some three feet deep and about a square yard in area, had been cut into the gravel. The gravel so thrown out had been heaped up adjacent to the hole on the east side. Two late Bronze Age urns of enormous size had been placed over this hole upside down and so close that they were just gently touching each other. Those two urns were resting at the same level, (sixteen to seventeen inches below the present surface), but not in the bottom of this hole, as clean stoneless soil lay between these urns and the solid gravel nine inches below them. In this soil, just above the gravel, was a fragment of Bronze Age pottery.

It appears then, that a hole had been prepared for this dual interment but nine inches of soil had silted back into the hole before the urns were placed in position, suggesting that some time had elapsed between the digging of the hole and the burial of the urns. (a similar circumstance seems likely to have occurred with the interment in the bucket urn in the case of the other barrow).

#### DESTRUCTION OF THE BARROW.

The proportion of stones excavated from the gravel layer when the barrow was first made was much larger from this barrow than from the previous one because the ditch was a foot deeper, but the infilling of the ditch contained practically stone-free soil, so that one can only infer that the gravel was originally carted right away. Should one not also infer that clean soil was carted from somewhere else to make up the mound of the barrow? That there was a mound can be deduced from the fact that urns of such a large diameter must have projected considerably above ground level and, consequently, earth must have been required to cover them.

### THE POTTERY.

The two Primary urns were both large and barrel-shaped, with texture similar to many others in the adjoining urnfield and without white grits. Ploughing had destroyed all but the top five inches of them.

Urn "A" had the usual encrusted band three to four inches below the rim. Above and below this band there were spasmodic finger-tippings, and the band itself was finger-tipped but the rim was plain. Diameter 16½ inches at the rim and 17 inches just below the band.

Urn "B" was unornamented except for finger-tipping along the top of the rim. There were two rivet-holes, one on either side of a crack. Diameter 15½ inches at the rim and 16½ inches at four inches below the rim.

In each urn were four or five small pieces of cremated bones and no ashes.

In addition some two dozen L.B.A. sherds were found scattered about the barrow, mostly in the infilling of the ditch. These are plotted on the ground plan of the barrow on page 34, giving the depth of each in inches.

Finds 6, 7, 12 and 18. Part of a thick bucket-shaped urn, the ware permeated with white grits.

Finds 13, 14 and 16. Part of a globular urn; thin ware permeated with white grits. (Similar to Urn "A" from Barrow Two?)

Finds 4 and 23. Nondescript sherds of L.B.A. bucket-barrel urn and could belong to either of the two Primaries.

Finds other than of the late Bronze Age .

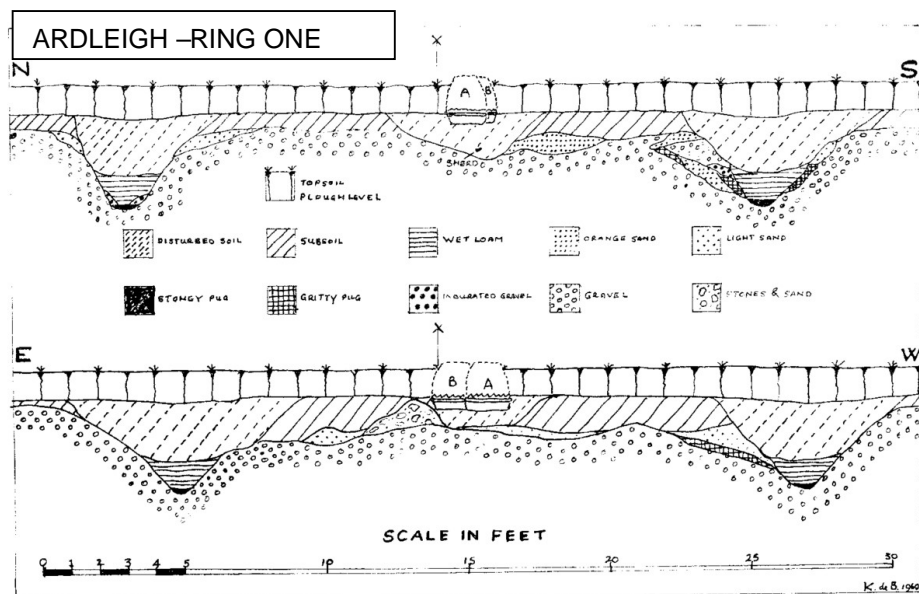
Find 1. Part of a grey Roman pot with everted rim.

Find 2. Sherd of coarse Iron Age C ware with double curve.

Find 10. Part of grey Roman bowl with bead rim. (imitation Form 37 Samian)

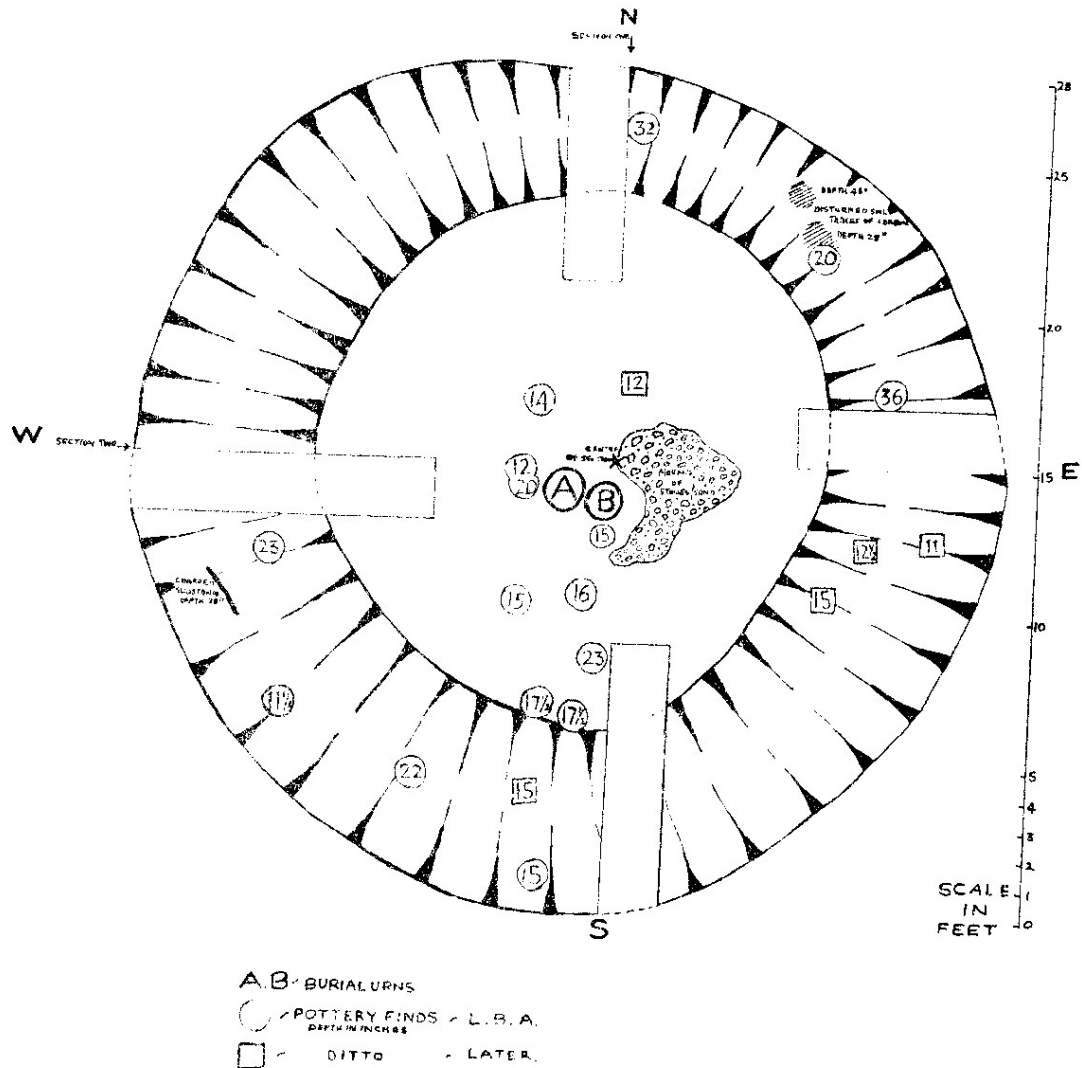
### CONCLUSION.

The pattern of this barrow seems very similar to the other one. Two L.B.A. Urns as Primaries and fragments of two others as Secondaries. Roman and Iron Age sherds within a foot of the top of the ditch imply that the barrow had silted appreciably at the ditch by Roman times but had not been completely levelled.



ARDLEIGH – RING ONE

GROUND PLAN



EXTENSION TO CULLINGFORD'S SHOP, HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER.

by Leonard H. Cant.

At the outset of this short account, may I say how much I am indebted to our hon. secretary, by whose vigilance and observation I was enabled to watch this excavation from the commencement. Whilst giving credits, praise must also be given to the men on the site who proved most co-operative and careful in the preservation of everything of interest and welcomed my visits, also to the Directors of Messrs, Cullingford & Co. Ltd., for they helped in every way and appreciated the value of everything which would throw some light on the former use of the site.

The extension was not large in area, being a clearance of the yard immediately to the rear of the High Street shop (no. 156) (NG ref. 99472521) enabling the cellar and the ground floor of the shop to be carried north by some thirty feet.

The ground was entirely made up, and appeared to be the spread of the earth dug out when the premises were built in the early 19th, century. However, the many different groups of pottery represented in the following list indicate the probable occupation of the site since Roman times, and an unbroken succession of clay tobacco pipes from early 17<sup>th</sup> to late 19th.

century. Indeed, the different types of clay pipe found here form the most comprehensive collection from one site yet made in the town.

The O.S. map TL 9925, scale 25 inches to 1 mile, shows a "Ramp" on this site. This ramp appeared to be connected with the stoke hold of the public baths, which occupied the adjoining site of St. George's Hall. A considerable quantity of clinker from the furnace was used for filling but the concrete base of the supposed fuel bay was left, at a depth of 8 feet below present ground level at that point. The ground slopes sharply to the north beyond this yard which was built up some 6 to 8 feet during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The watershed from the rear of the premises was taken down to soak-aways in this filling, with the result that the earth excavated was very wet.

The earliest sherds were of Roman date and included a base and body fragment of a small Castor ware vessel, having rouletted decoration, a segment of a black platter and rim sherds of polished black ware. Many pieces of pinkish buff pottery turned up; the thickness suggested wine jars or mortars - probably the former.

Medieval pottery covered a wide date range and included rough, gritty red cooking-pot fragments, some with brown glaze, and another thick fragment of buff body with bright green glaze, probably from a 15<sup>th</sup>. or 16<sup>th</sup>. century jug. A very different jug was also found, this being thin walled, with narrow neck and stout handle, decorated with a single score mark, the light red body was coated with a dull orange brown matt glaze. Of particular interest was the handle fixing, which clearly shows the method of attachment; the upper point of fixing was carefully smoothed out inside the narrow neck, but the lower point showed the incision in the body of the vessel, with the pinched up end of the handle pushed through the hole.

17<sup>th</sup>. century ware, which nicely cross referenced the clay tobacco pipes, was very varied; the Rhenish stoneware "Bellarmine" jug had a good mask on the neck and the central inscription, with medallions above and below it, and the brown mottled glaze point to an early date.

The black manganese glaze of the same period was found on two fragments, also many pieces of Delft ware, with creamy pink glaze and the characteristic terra cotta and "Delft blue" designs and leaf decoration. Similar ware was found in the Stockwell Street excavation in 1958 and at the "Essex Standard" offices some years ago.

A shallow dish or small bowl of pale red body, with white slip decoration and bright light brown glaze was reminiscent of the Harlow metropolitan ware, but the glaze was much lighter.

18<sup>th</sup>. and 19<sup>th</sup>. century pottery abounded throughout the filling but the most interesting piece of this period appeared to be a red flower pot, of 6 inches diameter, which Mr. M. R. Hull thought might be of Hedingham manufacture. It was known that Walter Bingham's father made flower pots, and this may be an example of the product which bored the young potter and made him experiment with applied decoration and glazing, to lead eventually to many monstrosities and not a few attractive pieces.

#### LECTURE BY PROFESSOR C. F. C. HAWKES M. A., F.S.G.

Professor Christopher Hawkes, the eminent archaeologist, gave a lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on some problems of the Bronze Age and Iron Age in the Colchester region on Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, of September in The Minories.

The lecture room was filled to capacity and the audience was rewarded with a remarkable lecture by the leading authority on these remote periods of history. Professor Hawkes, who said that the occasion marked the 30<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of his first connection with Colchester, declared that recent discoveries of pottery in the area might well negative much that had been published about the length and sub-divisions of the Bronze and Iron Ages in Britain.

Conclusions based on comparative studies of pottery shapes and ornament now showed the Bronze Age to be continuous, but changing styles of decoration pointed to the infusion of new folk who were contemporary with, and not succeeding, the so-called early and middle Bronze

Age peoples. The problem of the division of the Iron Age to ally swords with pottery and coins and the apparent end of the Bronze Age being contemporary with the beginning of the Iron Age presented a very complicated and difficult study and much more pottery of the early Iron Age must be found before conclusions can be made and a close dating put on the material.

Professor Hawkes praised the work of Mr. Felix Erith, of Ardleigh, whose local discoveries had made history and might yet solve some of the problems confronting archaeologists relating to the thirty centuries B.C.

Of his own work on the Lexden and Stanway dykes and ramparts the Professor postulated a theory that the inner encircling ramparts guarding Cunobelin's royal city in the Sheepen area were never completed, the scale being increased as his power and authority increased, but at his death the work on the outer rampart was not finished.

Mr. M. R. Hull, Chairman of the Group, thanked Professor Hawkes.

#### WINTER MEETINGS - FIRST PART.

The importance of the late Bronze Age discoveries at Ardleigh was stressed recently by Professor C.F.G. Hawkes, and on Monday evening, the 10th. of October, the Group, meeting for the first time at the Friends Meeting House, were fortunate in having as their speaker Mr. Felix H. Erith, of Ardleigh, on whose farm and by whose interest, effort and direction much of this local material has come to light. In the course of a well planned and splendidly illustrated lecture, Mr. Erith covered the whole Bronze Age, from the Beaker folk of Avebury and Stonehenge to the Deverel-Rimbury culture of Wessex, and, finally and more particularly, the Essex sites at White Colne and Ardleigh. As yet no settlement of Bronze Age has been found at Ardleigh, but recently discovered loom, weight fragments, ploughed from the soil, indicate such a settlement and the extensive urnfield, which has produced over one hundred cinerary urns, together with the two barrow tumuli excavated this year, suggest a long occupation. The sequence of degeneracy in pottery which characterises the early and middle Bronze Ages is not found in the late period, which has also a complete lack of grave goods, although bronze working and skill had by that time (1000 - 500 B.C.) reached a high standard of perfection. Mr. Erith said that many late Bronze age cinerary urns had been previously used as domestic vessels, the larger ones serving originally as grain holders, for some had been found hole d for the insertion of carrying thongs. The illustrations included globular urns of a type new to archaeologists, which have been classified as Ardleigh types.

Medieval glass was the subject of Mr. L. H. Gant's talk on the 17th. of October. He described medieval stained and painted glass as the handmaid of architecture whose purpose was to beautify buildings. Records of glazing survive from Saxon times, but the earliest stained glass in England is from the 11th. century, at Brabourne, Kent. The early glass shows a close affinity with that of France and much was produced by the same masters or schools. Of particular interest is the ancient glass in Canterbury cathedral, set in round headed Norman windows, and a figure of Methuselah, now reset in the south transept. The English cathedrals and colleges preserve many great works in medieval glass (York Minster, Lincoln and Merton College, Oxford, being but a few), but there is a surprising survival of ancient glass in parish churches, and a fair amount in Essex and in East Anglia. The Jesse Tree window at Margaretting and armorial glass at North Ockendon and Sandon were illustrated and studied. Mr. Gant described the characteristics of the three main periods into which medieval glass is divided, corresponding with the architectural called Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular. He also gave an account of the origin of glass manufacture and the production of a stained glass window. Following the talk many members took part in a discussion of points of interest and studied reproductions of many types of window glass.

By kind permission of the Borough Watch Committee, members visited the Town Hall on the 24th, of October under the guidance of Alderman L.E. Dansie. Having pointed out the foundation and opening commemorative stones from the former building, which were re-set into the entrance to the present Town Hall, Mr. Dansie addressed the Group in the Council Chamber, which enshrines so much local history and records the generosity of many people who were associated with the town. The decoration of the chamber, the stained glass

windows and engraved and painted panels were described and the legend of the Borough arms expounded, the speaker showing a photograph of the reputed shrine of the Magi, signified by the three crowns in the arms, which he recently visited at Cologne cathedral. The nobly proportioned Moot Hall was next visited and many oil paintings of local personalities described, also the Colchester martyrs' memorial at the head of the stairs, the wooden effigies of Blue Coat scholars and portrait busts which adorn the stairway. The paintings, engravings, photographs and other interesting relics of the town's past history preserved in the north committee room were next visited, also the grand jury room where the Corporation plate was displayed in its new setting. The great silver-gilt mace, which is the centre piece of a worthy exhibition was made from a smaller and older mace, which, together with other items of plate were melted down and remade. Finally, by kind permission of the Mayor, the visitors were shown the Mayor's parlour, where many tokens of municipal pride and appreciation of public service rest. Thanks to Mr. Dansie were expressed by Mrs. K. de Brisay and all agreed that many incidents of Colchester history and many of her worthy citizens had been revitalised by the speaker's infective enthusiasm and knowledgeable descriptions.

On the 31st of October the Group enjoyed a talk by A. B. J. N. Edwards on red hills. These interesting phenomena, of which there are traces of many scattered around the salt marsh creeks of Essex, have been the subject of much speculation and the earliest recorded investigation dates from the beginning of the century. Mr. Edwards put forward various theories as to the use of those sites and the most generally accepted seemed to be that they were used in some way for the production of salt from sea water; the dates and duration of any such scheme was unknown. A red hill might cover from five to as much as twenty-five acres and consisted of very large quantities of fine red burnt earth. The speaker showed examples of the strange clay objects found in those sites known as briquetage and whose exact use is unknown. Pottery finds were scarce and covered a very wide period. In the discussion which followed, several ideas were considered but none seemed to fit all the known facts and it was agreed that the Group should take advantage of the fact that red hills are more prevalent in the Essex marshes than elsewhere in the country and try to arrange an excavation on such a site at the earliest opportunity.

Unfortunately it was not possible to have the talk on the Lost Villages which had been arranged for the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and this has been postponed until after Christmas. To take its place Mrs. K. de Brisay introduced a discussion on Place Names. She mentioned first the three main types; Folk-names, Habitation-names and Nature-names. Following on this came the various origins and race elements and pronunciation and the speaker showed how these were an integral part of our history and how use could be made of such knowledge in the identification of archaeological sites. Many examples were given with special emphasis on local places and this provoked lively discussion and, to some extent, awakened interest in a fascinating subject.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November the Group was pleased to accept an invitation from the W. E. A. at Pebmarsh to attend one of their classes. Mr. I. H. Longworth M.A. of Cambridge is giving a series of lectures on Later Prehistory and the subject for this evening was Bound Barrows, Food Vessels and Urns. Mr. Longworth described the ridged food vessels, the Yorkshire vase and the Irish bowl and commented on their various decorations. He then described the various types of burial with which they are associated. Illustrations of the many types of urn were shown together with the different ways in which they were used for burial and the cultures which they represent. The meeting closed with refreshments and general discussion and Mr. Erith thanked the Chairman for a most instructive and enjoyable evening.

Mr. H. J. Edwards addressed the Group on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November and gave a most interesting illustrated talk on the history of the ancient craft of pottery making. The first vessel capable of holding liquid was probably evolved by accident and early man progressed by a series of experiments. The greatest step forward, however, came about 2000 B.C. when the potter's wheel was evolved. Mr. Edwards described the methods of pinching, coiling and moulding clay and illustrated the early decoration found in pre-historic pottery. Wheel turned pottery was discussed in all its many processes of decoration, fixing, finishing and manufacture. The tools used today were derived from the ancient craft tools and the English ceramic industry had an unbroken tradition going back for many centuries. A comprehensive range of pottery

was displayed and many pieces had been specially made to illustrate points of interest in the lecture. Some original modern types were also shown by Mr. Edwards. In the discussion following the talk the importance of accurate dating of pottery found in archaeological excavations was stressed, in order to establish a basis of comparison with other observations and material.

Miss Tessa Stratton was the speaker on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November and her subject, Mediterranean archaeology, proved of great interest. A recent archaeological holiday cruise was quietly but vividly described and illustrated by many photographs, brochures and drawings. The cruise was concentrated into sixteen days, and the number of sites visited was quite bewildering so that only a superficial knowledge of the many temples and tombs visited was possible. Miss Stratton, however, led her audience through a memorable holiday, through imposing colonnaded temples to remote and remarkable rock tombs and burial mounds with ease and unflagging enthusiasm. Among the places visited were Sardinia, Sicily, Italy, Malta and Tripoli, all of which in turn contributed to the knowledge of the ancient races which spread over Europe and evolved our present civilization.

On the fifth of December members were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lindsay of Castle Hedingham, when the well-known author and traveller gave a display and talk on Greco-Roman antiquities. The most notable groups in a very comprehensive collection were the Roman lamps, figurines and Corinthian pottery, which were much admired and admirably described by the owner. Many, ancient British antiquities were also displayed and examined and local archaeological sites and discoveries discussed. Mrs. Lindsay is a gifted ceramic artist and this led to a further discussion on pottery which was the subject of study for the Group recently.

#### NOTES AND COMMENT.

MINERAL WATER BOTTLES. – Mr. L. H. Gant writes:- Many curious things are brought into the offices of the local newspaper for examination and identification. Four early 19th, century mineral water bottles have been recently found in Colchester and brought to my notice; one was found at the Standard Ironworks, Hythe, one in the garden of a nearby house on Hythe Hill, a third in a disused Congregational church cemetery in St. Helen's Lane and a fourth, and most perfect specimen, came from a garden in Greenstead Road. Identification was easy, for three had the name "Schweppes" moulded in the glass. Submission of one of these to the Head Office of Schweppes has drawn the following interesting comment:- "It would seem that this bottle is one of those which was produced by us in the early part of the 19th, century. It would have been used prior to 1870 and it is most likely one of those manufactured between 1820 and 1835. It may interest you to know that the type of bottle which you found was known as a 'drunken bottle', since it was formed with an oval end to prevent it being stood upright. The purpose of this was to prevent the cork of the bottle from drying out, allowing the 'Schweppervescence' to escape. You will notice the bottle has a bulbous end to the neck and this was used for wiring in the cork, somewhat similar to the way in which a champagne cork is wired on the bottle these days. From time to time we hear of old bottles, like the one you have, turning up in all parts of the World. For instance, one has turned up in America which has been used for three generations as a babies' nursing bottle; another bottle was found under a fallen stone at Stonehenge when it was recently raised by the Ministry of Works. The latter story, unfortunately, is rather spoiled when it is known that the stone fell down in 1870". The "Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser", published in London, January 22, 1779, contains an advertisement of John Ellison of the Mineral Water Warehouse in St. Alban Street, Pall Mall London, informing the trade that he had purchased the lease of "that much improved water called Tilbury Alternative water, situate at West Tilbury Hall, Essex." The advertisement goes on to say that the characteristics of this medicinal Essex water were "its being of a straw colour and having an extreme soft, pleasant taste, like milk". The softness of the well water in the Tilbury area was evidently turned to good account and the fortunate owner of the well at West Tilbury Hall no doubt reaped a rich reward whilst the vogue for taking mineral water lasted. What the impurities were which gave Tilbury water its peculiar yellow colour are not stated in the advertisement, only that a panel of eminent physicians recommended its use.