



Colchester Archaeological Group

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PART ONE MARCH 1964

With the beginning of our seventh year we look forward to the summer and the forthcoming 'digging season'. Many members have put their names down for this and will be notified by the secretary as plans are made; if there is anyone who has not and would like to be included, please let her know.

OUTINGS. The first has been arranged to visit Mr. Minter's brick works at Bulmer on Monday evening, 4th May; meet at 6.30p.m. at the Sheepen Road Car Park; if you have a car, please bring it; lifts will be arranged for those requiring them. Ms. Minter is well-known for his hand made bricks and it is hoped to see a kiln in operation.

The second outing will be a walk round a part of Colchester under the guidance of Mr. L.H. Gant and Mr. John Bensusan Butt. Meet outside the front door of the Public Library at 6.30p.m. on Monday, 1st June.

TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW - 11th July - once again we have a stand at this Show and we hope members will visit us and see our display.

On page 2 of this issue, Mr. Gant writes on the Maypole at Berechurch and he also has an article on the Hunting Rights of the Colchester Burgesses. Mr. Erith writes on an armorial discovery. An account of the winter meetings and the usual Notes & Comment are also included.

Contributions and enquiries should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. (Telephone, Layer de la Haye 274).

NOTES AND COMMENT

Mr. L.H. Gant writes:- A Temporary Council Chamber.

It is not generally known, I think, that when the old (Victorian) Town Hall was demolished and the present building in course of erection, (it was officially opened on 15th May 1902), the Colchester Town Council met in the nearby offices of its former Clerk, Mr. Henry Jones. These premises, styled Town Hall Chambers, are still occupied by the well known firm of solicitors, Messrs. Jones & Son, of which Mr. Henry Jones, who died in 1889, was the founder. The large room on the first floor where the Council met is now divided into a number of smaller rooms by partitioning, but the ceiling moulding and roses for the gas light chandeliers may still be seen. To signify its use by the Council, a shield bearing the old Borough Arms, which formerly adorned a doorway in the old Town Hall, was placed over the doorway of the temporary Council Chamber. When the Council later moved back to their new premises, the shield was retained and preserved to commemorate not only the use of the premises by the Council, but also as a reminder that the founder, Mr. Henry Jones was, for many years, Clerk to the Council. This shield has now been repainted and gilded, and placed over the door to the offices, in the entrance hall. I am obliged to Mr. Eric J. Pointon, senior partner of the firm, for these interesting details, and for showing me over the premises.

BRONZE AGE BLOOD GROUPS - our article on this subject by Dr. Grant in our last Bulletin attracted some interest and the Secretary received many enquiries. We hope we may be able to carry our investigations further with bones from future excavations.

Mr. B.J.N. Edwards writes:- I should like to point out that, interesting though Dr. Grant's article on blood grouping ancient bones was, the technique is neither new, nor of proven reliability. The tests have been carried out now for about 25 years, but recent American tests suggest that the substances causing characteristic reactions bone are not the result of blood-group substances contained in the bone at the time of death. (See - Nature: 191, p.1267 : New Scientist: 19 Jan. 1961)

THE MAYPOLE AT BERECHURCH

by L.H. Gant

The name "Maypole" has been applied to a green, a field, a farmhouse, now a public house bearing the same name, and a row of cottages, in Berechurch.

Which of these is the oldest? is the question one asks when considering the derivation, which obviously refers to a maypole set up on the village green. The inn is of most recent date, and can therefore be quickly eliminated. Next comes the farmhouse, which was built early in the 18th century, and so escaped notice in the Report of the Royal Commission on Historic buildings.

The Maypole Farm was created out of the "Old House Farm" - the fields round the old Hall, which, according to Morant was damaged during the Civil War (1648) and reduced to the status of a farmhouse - and the Horse Shoe Farm.

This was not quite the truth, for an estate map, drawn in 1715, clearly shows a Queen Anne mansion on the site, and it is recorded that Berechurch Hall was a favourite residence of Queen Anne. The Particulars of Sale of Berechurch Hall, published in 1878, repeat this claim, and a piece of tapestry or embroidery, reputed to have been worked by Queen Anne, and formerly at the Hall, is still in existence, although I have not yet discovered its whereabouts.

To return to our subject; the farmhouse can now be eliminated, also the row of cottages, which cannot date from earlier than the first half of the 19th century, and were named after the nearby green.

The field name is also a geographical one and merely describes its proximity to the green. It appears, therefore, that the green and the immediate area surrounding it was formerly termed "the Maypole".

The oldest reference yet found is contained in the Burial Register of St. Michael's parish church, where, under the year 1670 there appears the following entry: "Novemb: Thomas Newton at the Maypole buried: 21 day"

This Thomas Newton and his wife Elizabeth lived at the Maypole for many years, the first entry being the "baptizing" of their infant son, William, in 1664.

AN ARMORIAL DISCOVERY AT ARDLEIGH

by F.H. Erith

A surprising discovery was made by Mr. Derek Richardson, of Malting Farm, Ardleigh, when some plaster was removed from over his living room fireplace during alterations.

The plaster had concealed a block of stone, not much more than a foot square, set into the wall over the lintel. In the centre a heraldic shield was slightly raised and a motto, with initials and date were carved around it. It is only possible to see this from below as an oak beam obscures a direct view. Mr. Girling's photograph (see below) was consequently taken at an oblique angle. The Motto:- **ALTIOR FORTUNA VIRTUS** presumably means "Virtue is higher than Fortune". The initials are H.K. and the date 1597. The only bearing on the shield, as found, is a Fess gules, being composed of a brick or part of a brick set into the stone. It is possible that further charges were originally depicted on this shield but have since fallen off or been rubbed off.

The Ardleigh Parish Registers have been searched for persons with initials H.K. around the date 1597 and in the Register of Burials are the following:

11 March 1619 - Henry KNOP

21 April 1594 - Abraham ye sonne of Henry KING, a Dutchman

23 July 1616 - John ye son of Humfrey KING

In all there are fourteen King burials entered between 1556 and 1726, but not much evidence to suggest that they were armigerous.

A will of Thomas Kyngge, dated 1558, consists mostly of bequests of clothes; "to my brother Robert Kyngge my best cote; to Thomas Hogkyn my best dublet"; etc. Robert King, who died in 1623 is described as "an housholder".

Research into identifying the coat of arms was kindly done by Mr. Bensusan-Butt, who found the following:

KIRKETON - argent, a fess gules.

KING ---- or, a fess between two ducal coronets sable.

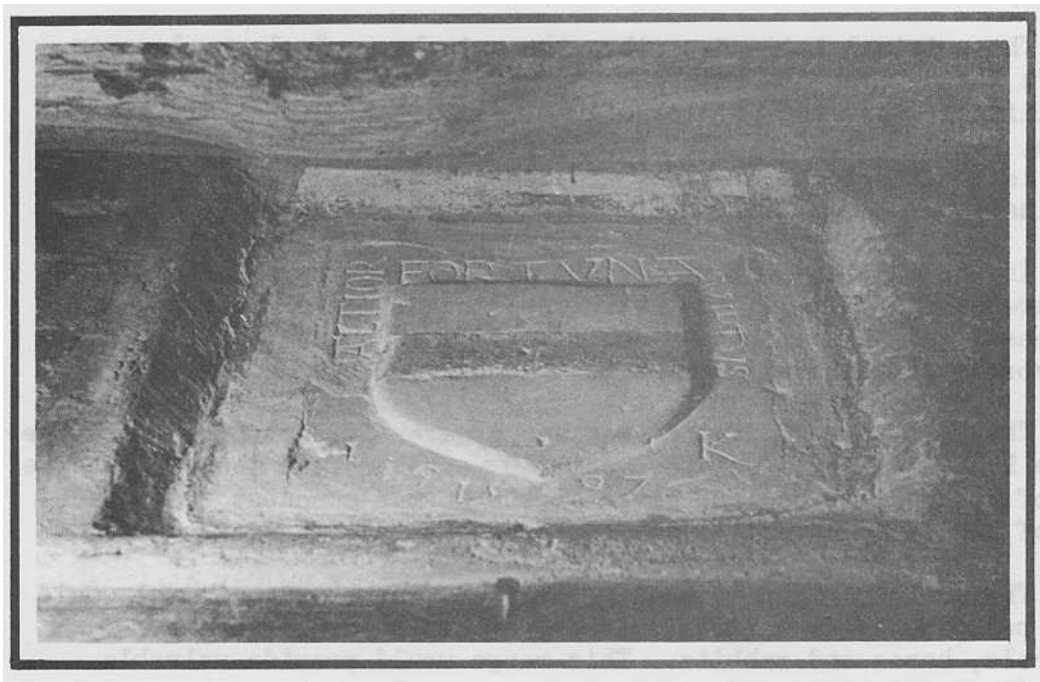
The former matches our shield all right, but there is no trace of the name Kirketon in the locality.

If the King shield is indeed our Ardleigh family, then one must assume that the fess had originally been painted black, and that the two coronets had been erased or had fallen off. The Motto is not in Fairbairn.

More evidence would be required before a case in favour of KING can definitely be established. Perhaps some reader can throw further light on this problem.

HERALDIC SHIELD

MALTING FARM, ARDLEIGH, ESSEX



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

THE HUNTING RIGHTS OF COLCHESTER BURGESSES

by L.H. Gant

The first Royal Charter, granted to the Borough of Colchester by King Richard I in 1189, and signed by him at Dover just before embarking on one of his crusades, has long been read as conferring upon the Burgesses the right to hunt the fox, the hare and the polecat within the liberties of the Borough.

The original Latin describes the animals as "vulpem, leporem, catum"; the fox and the hare are undoubted, but the "catum", as Mr. Clifford Owen, the curator of the Colchester Natural History Museum, points out, does not specifically refer to the polecat, which is related to the ferret, and bears the Latin name "mustela putorius".

In the charter context "catum" could be interpreted as meaning any fur-bearing animal. The Latin word means "sly or cunning" in one sense, and this attribute could be related to the habits of many carnivorous wild animals common to this part of the country.

The last polecat in the area was apparently shot by a gamekeeper on the Berechurch Hall estates, some 40 years ago, in the wood to the west of Roman Hill, on land given at the Norman conquest to Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, and still called "Frenchman's".

The ancient right to hunt or trap any fur bearing animal would cover polecats, pine martens, otters, stoats, weasels, moles, squirrels, hares and rabbits. This range would provide valuable skins for furnishings and ornament for apparel.

Discussing this point, Mr. M.R. Hull, formerly curator of the Colchester & Essex Museum said that the right to hunt these animals did not appear to be a very great privilege, but if the polecat was specifically intended in the charter, its comparative rarity may have created a desire to possess clothing decorated with its fur, which may have been prized in ancient times much as mink is today.

WINTER MEETINGS 1964

A journey along the ancient pilgrims' way from the Pass of Rondesvalles in the Pyrenees mountains of southern France to the shrine of the Apostle St. James at Santiago di Compostella was the subject of an address given by Mrs. Glaister. Mrs. Glaister, who illustrated her talk with many fine colour transparencies, said that the story of St. James, who was executed by order of Herod Agrippa in the first century, contained much myth and legend, and the miraculous discovery of his burial place by a monk in the 9th century, who observed heavenly lights like stars shining in a field, could not be proved by historical records. The pilgrims' way led over rough and barren terrain, crossing wide rivers by ancient bridges and climbed the foothills of the Cantabrian mountains. Many of the towns pictured were quite unspoiled by modern traffic, and the cathedrals of the cities along the route are a memorial to the thousands of pilgrims who have, through the centuries, made the long and arduous Journey to Santiago. Whilst the interest of the journey lay chiefly in the churches and cathedrals, Mrs. Glaister also covered the secular buildings, and the hovels and cave dwellings of the very poor peasantry, who wrest a hard won living from an unproductive soil. Primitive threshing by means of mule drawn sledges, winnowing and sacking the grain, and the storage in very ornamental circular buildings, washing clothes and linen by the muddy rivers, or patiently filling a huge water barrel from a fountain - unusual and very picturesque scenes were recorded by the lecturer and made a memorable and interesting talk.

The beauty of the Stour Valley was admirably shown on Monday, 20th January, when Mr. A.E. Horlock addressed the Group on the subject of "The Valley of the Stour". Commencing at the source of the river, near Clare, Mr. Horlock showed a hundred places until the estuary was reached at Harwich, diverging to take in places of interest on the tributary rivers and brooks. The warm East Anglian red brick, half timbered gables and jettied fronts, carved corner posts, latticed windows and colourful plaster, the medieval township of Lavenham, mills, locks, bridges, and the gently rolling and fertile land through which the river flows provided splendid subjects for photographic study and commentary. Mr. Horlock stressed the importance of vigilance in preserving the heritage which has come down to us, and the dangers of neglect or apathy, which encouraged exploitation of natural beauty spots and the deterioration of the river stretches, which were once open and busy with trade traffic and pleasure seeking boating parties. The river was then open as far as

Sudbury, but many stretches are now overgrown with weed, the flow reduced, the water polluted by effluent and other contamination, destroying the fish, and the river is robbed of millions of gallons of water to "swill down the sinks in towns a hundred miles away". The history of England is indeed written in her parish churches, once Catholic, then despoiled by Protestant extremists and sincere but misguided restorers, but now once again restored, cared for and preserved. The strong square Norman towers in the marginal lands, the "foreign" broach spires which suggest movement of craftsmen from the Midlands to eastern England, the majesty of the perpendicular 'wool' churches were all shown and described.

The Group was addressed by its Vice-Chairman, Mr. L.H. Gant, on 27th January. Under the title "The Road to the Isles", Mr. Gant gave an account, illustrated by colour slides, of a recent holiday on the Isle of Skye. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Gant traced the migration of the Mesolithic and Neolithic peoples from Europe to Ireland, from whence they crossed the sea - the Atlantic route - to Scotland. Many "duns" from Iron Age times are found on the islands of the Hebrides, and a few ancient fortresses, Dunscaith and Duntulm, the castles of the Macdonalds, and Dunvegan, the home for 800 years of the Macleods. The christianisation of Skye by St. Columba, the long and bitter clan wars, and the old legends and myths were all touched upon. The illustrations covered many aspects of the life and scenery on the island, and were of great interest.

The result of sixteen years of excavation, cleaning, preservation and study of hundreds of objects recovered from the earth at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe was illustrated and described by the well known farmer archaeologist, Mr. H.P. Cooper on 3rd February. The site is one of the most important and interesting in mid-Essex, for it covers the period of the whole Roman occupation and beyond into the Dark Ages. One of the many remarkable groups of finds are the iron tools and implements, which include a bill-hook, numerous knives, nails of gigantic lengths and a set of hobnails for a Roman boot. Plans of the many buildings unearthed were shown, including an open hearth, probably used for ceremonial occasions, and the current excavation of a large building, having an apsidal end. A coin bearing the early Christian symbol of pisces, the fish, was found, and it is hoped that the building may have a religious significance. The area also included considerable metal working shops, and partly finished tools, ornaments and implements bear out this theory. The local clay was also made into pottery which burned to a pleasing red colour, but other wares from the south Midlands were also found. In all, the lecture and illustrations were the most comprehensive account of a Roman settlement.

In the year 1796 there was widespread and deep apprehension at the preparations of the French for the invasion of England, and many measures were taken to secure this country against the threat, from the building of the Martello towers to the raising of private troops of cavalry and infantry. The vicar of Ardleigh at that time was anxious to list not only every available able-bodied man, but, in an unofficial way to establish some right to poverty by listing the place of residence, and the trade of the head of every household in the parish, together with a list of his family, giving their sex and age. This record, carefully written in the centre folios of an old parish register was examined by the Rev. Grubb, whom Mr. Felix H. Erith described to the Group on 10th February as a born archivist. Mr. Erith titled his talk "Ardleigh 1796 - A social survey", and said that this complete list was almost unique in the country. Although first noted nearly 60 years ago, the record had escaped further examination until recently when Mr. Erith recognised the value of the document and proceeded to study it from many angles. Statistics compiled show the favourite christian names, and the surnames list many families which still survive in the village. Occupation statistics were given and an analysis showing the social scale from the esquier, who was lord of the manor, to the humble inmates of the parish workhouse.

From the evidence of the record, and by close study of subsequent register entries and documents preserved by the former historian, Mr. Erith built up the family history and the social advancement of many inhabitants, and concluded his lecture by projecting colour slides of the Ardleigh farmhouses as they are today, and also showing many of the documents originally found in a chest in the belfry and now preserved in a note book. The original documents were also displayed for examination and created much interest.

The result of years of patient photography, often under most difficult conditions, was presented in colour slides by Mr. Donald Simpson, on the 17th February. Wood carvings of great beauty and charm from the bench ends, misericords and panels of the lovely Suffolk churches were shown, the many delightful animals, both factual and mythical, all shining with the gentle patina of age, were much admired. Mr. Simpson showed pictures of the beautiful old stained glass at White Notley which, dating from the 13th century, is believed to be the earliest in England; also some of that in Rivenhall and Ufford churches, the former being of French origin.

The speaker on 24th February was Mr. J. Sansom, who gave a most interesting lecture, illustrated by colour slides, on the Italian cities of Florence and Rome.

Sansom traced the history of the Renaissance in Italian art and architecture, and showed the Byzantine mosaic influence, and- the wonderful frescoes of Fra Angelico. The scenes in Rome were well chosen for their archaeological interest and historical association. The magnificent ruins of the Coliseum and Nero's Golden House, the triumphal archways of the Emperors Constantine and Septimus Severus and many other ruins of classic Rome held the audience. Finally, the great basilica of St. Peter at Rome, and the adjacent Vatican buildings, including many official pictures of the treasures of art and furnishing within the cathedral. The Sistine chapel, with its unparalleled ceiling painted by Michaelangelo, the bridges and churches of the Eternal City, ably described by the speaker made a memorable evening for the very appreciative audience.

Following up a recent talk on old Colchester, Mr. Bernard Mason again addressed the Group on 2nd March, and showed a further selection of slides of old and disappearing Colchester buildings and scenes. Having previously projected pictures of the town centre, Mr. Mason depicted and described the Hythe area, East Hill and East Street and St. Botolph's. A few slides of the town centre of special interest, recently made, showed the two architects' drawings of the proposed extension to the old Town Hall, incorporating the Victorian facade. This scheme was later dropped, and the present edifice erected to the design of an eminent architect, Mr. John Belcher. Unique pictures of the demolition and of the interior views of St. Runwald's church, and very early photographs, taken shortly after 1850, showing the decorated arches erected across the streets in honour of Prince Albert's visit to the town proved of special interest. Many of the original photographs from which the slides were made were taken by Mr. Mason's father, an eminent historian and archaeologist, who first called attention to the Balcerne Gate, and- undertook the excavation of the north guardroom foundations.

The Group was privileged to have as its speaker on 9th March Dr. John Alexander, of Cambridge, who lectured on the coming of iron to Europe. The introduction of iron to Europe began with the Greeks in the year 1200 BC and spread by trading along the northern shores of the Mediterranean, penetrating through the Rhone Valley into southern and central France. By the year 700 BC a highly civilised culture flourished in Tuscany, and the Etruscan movement took the use of iron from Northern Italy through Austria to southern Germany. Contemporary with this northward movement, the Phoenician traders carried iron to Carthage, in north Africa, through the Straits of Gibraltar to the western seaboard of Spain, from whence traders brought iron to Britain. One of the most universal objects enabling very close dating of Iron Age contexts is the bronze safety pin, invented by the Greeks, and modified by every generation and race since, to this day. The Etruscans traded with the Balkan countries, and a small, but important influence spread from the eastern nomadic horsemen of the Steppes into western Europe. Their horse and harness ornaments are characterised by mythical beasts which start with a head and finish with a twiddle. Dr. Alexander led on to the Hallstatt and La Tene periods, which gave the first definite link from the Belgic countries to Britain. The remarkable fact about the spread of the use of iron from Greece to Britain and northern Europe is that the movement took many centuries, and it was not until 400 BC that iron was in general use in this country. Archaeologists have been looking for swords, the speaker declared, when they should have been looking for iron rivets:

The final meeting of the winter session of the Group was held at St. Runwald's School on 16th March, and took the form of a quiz. The chairman was Major A.D. Mansfield and members of the panel were Dr. J.B. Penfold, Mr. F.H. Erith and Mr. W.H.F. Spyvee. Objects of archaeological interest, kindly loaned by the Colchester Museum, ranged from a Mycenaean stirrup jar to a 19th century washing doily, with Roman and medieval objects, pottery and glass, door warning bell, and many other puzzling and amusing objects, covering a wide number of subjects. The panel acquitted themselves well, however, and identified the greater number of exhibits.

PART TWO JUNE 1964

In response to popular request we are arranging another outing this summer. This will take place on Monday the 27th July to visit Copford and Coggeshall - meet at the Leather Bottle, Shrub End (junction of Maldon Road and Straight Road) at 6-30p.m. Car owners please bring your vehicle so that lifts may be arranged for those who do not have cars; Corporation bus No.1 (Dugard Avenue) leaves the town centre at frequent intervals. The first place to be visited will be Copford Church with its famous 12th century wall paintings where the Rector, the Rev. T.H. Hollingdale, will show us round. Thence to Coggeshall where arrangements have been made to view the interior of Paycockes, a fine example of a 16th century wool merchant's dwelling. The present tenants, Mr. & Mrs. C.G. McAuliffe, have kindly agreed to conduct members round the house but as this is a National Trust property those who do not already subscribe will be asked to pay an entrance fee of 2/6d; an attractive garden lies behind. If any time remains there are several interesting old houses in Church Street, the reconstructed Church and Woolpack Inn - all worthy of a visit.

Excavations:- are planned at Elm Park, Ardleigh; a probable Roman site; and at Bond Green farm, East Mersea (see note on below). If time permits there is another Iron Age site, thought to be that of a settlement, behind Vinces Farm, Ardleigh. Details of dates and times will be circulated to those whose names are on the excavation list as soon as these are known.

This issue includes an article by Mr. F.H. Erith on "Tracking down a Pottery Kiln from Documentary Sources", an account of an early Colchester Newspaper by Mr. L.H. Gant, and notes on our recent outings and the usual notes and comment.

TRACKING DOWN A POTTERY KILN FROM DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

by F.H. Erith

That there was a pottery kiln somewhere in Ardleigh there could be little doubt, because the Parish Registers refer to

"William Ley, a potter" who died in 1583

and "Richard Ley, the potter" who died in 1587

but in which of the Parish's 6,000 acres did their kiln lie?

Possibly it was in one of the areas of heavy clay land, since pottery requires even stronger clay than tiles. These clay pockets occur in several parts of Ardleigh, and two of them are located where brick making was known to have been carried on. Being very heavy clay these areas are often waterlogged, and so were among the very last parcels of land to be "enclosed", and still bore the name of "Heath" at the end of the eighteenth century. Even so, it could not be definitely assumed that any pottery kiln must be on heavy soil, because the two Roman kilns found on Vinces Farm were on gravel soil, and no clay was within half a mile of them. It seems that availability of wood for fuel was considered more important than proximity to clay.

I had been given access to various documents to do with the village of Ardleigh, but it was not until Mr. Charles Abbott, who is the present Lord of the Manor, lent me the Court Rolls of Bovill's Hall that any clue concerning this subject turned up.

The Court Rolls

Bovill's Hall is one of the four Manors of Ardleigh. Its Court Rolls date from the fourteenth century and continue with some gaps until the nineteenth. A large part of the business of these courts consisted of registering the transfer of property within the jurisdiction of the Manor, and accompanying the Rolls were often the Stewards lists of free - and copyholders who paid a small annual quitrent. Whenever a tenant died his heir had to pay a fine to continue the tenancy, and often the Court Rolls contained a fairly detailed description of the property, sometimes giving the names of owners of adjoining land north, south, east and west.

One property whose name kept recurring every generation or so was called "Pottkilns", which strongly suggested that it was the place where pottery-making was carried on, or where it had been carried on in the past. If the Court Rolls had at any time given a description of its locality within the Parish, then there would be some chance of pinpointing the actual site.

All reference to "Pottkilns" were then extracted and arranged in date order. The earliest reference was in 1648: among the Stewards papers: "Dunstan Rochester, for a tenement called Pottkiln - iiiid"; but in 1637 there was an entry "Dunstan Rochester filius Samuelis Rochester", presumably referring to the death of Samuel, and the admission of his son Dunstan to the Manor. If this be so, then it is likely that Samuel Rochester was at "Pottkilns" for some years prior to 1637. There could, then, be only a gap of some 30 years or so between the time Richard Ley "the potter" died in 1587, and the time that Samuel Rochester began working sometime prior to 1637, presumably with the same kiln, or at least on the same premises.

The latest reference is in 1798, when the tenant was:
"Sadler, a cottage and garden called the Pot Kiln".

In 1738 the kiln and the domestic property were assessed separately:

"Jno. Sadler	for Pottkilne	00:00: 4d.
	for a cottage and garden	00:00: 8d".

And in the Steward's lists covering the years 1734-1750 there is a full description:

"for a tenement and one acre of land called Pottkilns abutting upon Mr. Burgis' land north, Skipping Street Heath west and Nat. Courtman's land south-east. Dunstan Rochester former owner, late in ye occ. of Tho. Turner now of Jno. Sadler".

In the margin, in a later hand is written "Owner, Jno. Sadler, Occupier Edward Edwards, William Sadler".

This description is very helpful in that it puts the site of "Pottkilns" on the East side of Skipping Street Heath. This Heath was also known as Cock Common, and covers an area on either side of the Colchester to Ipswich turnpike road (now the A.12) from the "Lion and Lamb" in the south to the "Crown Inn" at the north, a distance of about 1,000 yards, and from 10 to 100 yards wide either side, and perhaps containing about 30 acres. The whole area of this heath is in heavy clay, but bordered abruptly by very sandy soil. Halfway along the heath the main road spans the Salary Brook.

The Rev. John Kelly's Survey.

Having ascertained that "Pottkilns" must be one of the houses on the east side of Skipping Street Heath, and that its occupiers were William Sadler and Edward Edwards at the end of the 18th century, the obvious course was to see if these names were on the Rev. Dr. Kelly's list. The Vicar of Ardleigh, in a fit of patriotic zeal, had made a list of all his parishioners, with their occupations and ages in the year 1796. He called at each house in turn, and his progress can be traced with a fair degree of accuracy; and from known residences it is possible to identify some of the unknown ones.

The following is a list of householders in the order Kelly wrote them down, with their trade (or "Quality" as he called it) and age. The list only covers the Skipping Street Heath area, with which we are concerned. The right hand column refers to the present-day names of their houses where known.

Samuel Abrey	Yeoman	aged 37	Plains Farm
John Bacon	Brickmaker	62	
John Banham	Brickmaker	40	
James Woods	Brickmaker	26	
William Fairweather	Looker	30	
George Cooke	Husbandman	24	
John Nevard	Sandman	70	Sandpit Farm
William Sadler	Husbandman	64	
William Sadler	Husbandman	39	
Edward Edwards	Husbandman	40	
John Carde	Husbandman	32	
George Smith	Blacksmith	46	Forge Cottage
Thomas Fenton	Innkeeper	60	The Crown Inn

Since Potkilns was then occupied by William Sadler and Edward Edwards, its position must be between Sandpit Farm and the old Blacksmith's, Forge Cottage, with one house intervening each way.

The Fieldwork

The next step was obviously to visit the Ipswich Road area to see how many of these old houses are still in existence. The shape of Skipping Street Heath was at once recognisable - the older houses were some way back from the road, on the fringe of the former heath, while the newer houses were right close to. Sandpit Farm stands back 100 yards on an eminence. Between Plains Farm and Sandpit Farm the land was so boggy, indicative of the stiffest clay, that it was not being farmed, and had run wild. The old blacksmith's shop was commemorated by the name "Forge Cottage". Between this and Sandpit Farm there are four or five houses and the Salary Brook runs between them. On either side of the Brook and standing well back were two old properties, "Hawthorns" and "Brookside Cottage", either of which, according to my calculations could have been "Potkilns". I called at "Hawthorns", the one north of the brook, and asked if they knew of any ancient pottery works there, but they had not been there long and could not help me.

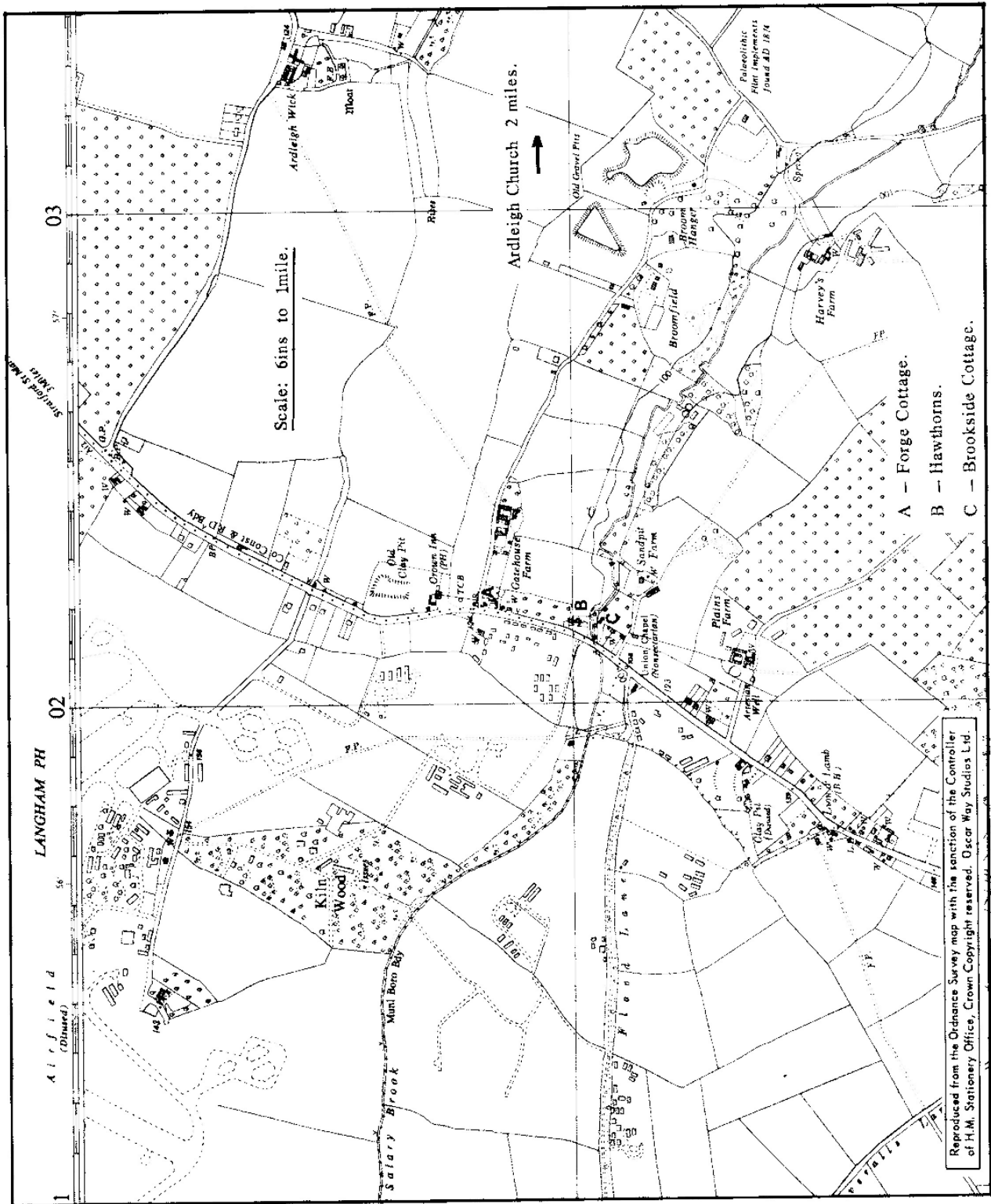
The next weekend I called at the house south of the brook, "Brookside Cottage"; and spoke to the owners, Mr. & Mrs. Singleton, on the lawn at the back. I said hopefully "There ought to be a pottery kiln somewhere about here", but was quite taken aback by Mrs. Singleton's reply - "You are standing on it! ".

The Singletons had taken this house in 1943, and in the course of tidying up the garden, Mr. Singleton had come across vast quantities of broken pottery, most of which was carted away, some to make up the runway of Boxted aerodrome. Several barrow-loads had, however, been wheeled away to a corner of the garden, where after a search we found them partly buried by the undergrowth. We collected a representative sample which was later taken to the Colchester Museum, where it was identified as 17th and 18th century domestic pottery. It was mostly red-brown earthenware with a bright red or brown glaze.

Conclusions

It was disappointing to find no Elizabethan pottery among the fragments, but the inspection has so far been only cursory. It is probable that this site was a pottery kiln for at least 200 years, say from 1560 to 1780. It must have been working in 1738 where John Sadler was assessed separately for the kiln and the house. He was assessed for "Potkiln - 1/-" in 1769, and he probably taught his son, William, born in 1732, to follow his craft. However, according to the Rev. John Kelly, both the William Sadlers (aged 64 and 39 in 1796) were "husbandmen". If they were still operating the pottery business at that time, then presumably he would have called them "potters". On this evidence then it must be assumed that it had ceased a decade or so previously.

The situation of this kiln is most interesting = the clay nearby is about the stiffest in this region. The brook, only ten feet away, supplied the necessary water, and 200 yards to the east a sandpit produced the purest of sand. The bricks for the kiln, the foundations of which Mr. Singleton came across, presumably came from just down the road.



AN EARLY COLCHESTER NEWSPAPER

by L.H. Gant

A copy of "The Colchester Weekly Journal or Essex Advertiser" dated March 17, 1744 has been loaned to me by Miss E.T. Pearson, of Epping. This is an important and very interesting broadsheet, for the "Colchester Journal" was one of the first provincial weekly newspapers.

It was founded and first published early in 1733, when its title was "The Essex Mercury or Colchester Journal", but the popular style was "Pilborough's Journal", to distinguish it from its contemporary, the "Ipswich Journal", which had an influential circulation in the Colchester area.

The newspaper was first published by J. Pilborough, Bookseller, "at the Printing Press over-against St. Nicholas Church, where all manner of printing work is performed ... where is sold (truly prepared) Daff's Elixirs...".

The imprint on the 1744 edition simply stated that the newspaper was printed in Colchester by J. Pilborough, but an advertisement for the famous Daff's Elixir Salutis - "Universally allow'd to be the most beneficial Cordial in the World, and a Sovereign Remedy in most Distempers incident to Mankind" - describes him as "Printer and Bookseller, at the Printing Press and Two Red Bibles, over-against the Three Cups Inn in the High-street, Colchester".

The trade sign of a red Bible was not uncommon at that time, nor was it unusual to find a printing and bookseller retailing medicines and tobacco.

Pilborough appears to have been followed by Charles Darby at the sign of the Red Bible, and his successor, William Keymer used the sign of the Bible and Star. Darby was in business in 1749, but Pilborough's "Journal" seems to have gone out of publication by 1750. William Keymer produced many collector's pieces by way of maps and prints of old Colchester and his illustrated Map was re-engraved and issued by Swinburne early in the 19th century.

John Pilborough junr. was one of the Churchwardens of St. Runwald's in 1759 to whom a Rate was granted, so, presumably, the family continued to live in the vicinity of the old Moot Hall.

To return to the "Colchester Journal" for 1744 - among the Colchester news items appears the following: "Last Week at the Assizes at Chelmsford for the County of Essex, seven Malefactors receiv'd Sentence of Death, viz. Warren Dun for Sheep-stealing; Mark Coney, James Butler, and John Chapman for Horse-stealing; Ja Long, and Richard Flack for several Robberies; and W. Madel for Felony and Burglary. Fourteen were ordered for Transportation, viz. James Wilson, Thos. Raw, Ja Turvie, Will Evans, Sam Turner, John Smith, John Wood, - Jones, Rich. Barchil, Lydia Lungley, James Miall, John Morttree, Simon Bailey and Mary Wilson."

The severity of the Law in these "good old days" makes us shudder!

Much more pleasant reading is supplied by Pilborough's advertisement for a medicinal tobacco, which reads as follows: "The Famous Cephalick and Ophthalmick TOBACCO; which, by smoaking a Pipe of it, is good for the Head, Eyes, Stomach, Lungs, Rheumatism, and GOUT; Thickness of Hearing, Head-ach, Tooth-ach, or Vapours, and to give free Breath where a Person is almost suffocated with Wheesing: It is likewise good for sore or weak Eyes, and to restore ancient Sight, and preserve young Eyes; so that by using this Tobacco, Persons may never come to wear Spectacles, and if they've already used them, may leave them off, by its so strengthening and clearing the Sight. (Price 4s. a Pound, or any less Quantity, to 3d. an Ounce.)"

A much more cautious approach is found in another advertisement for "Dr. Ellis's Cordial Mixture", which claims to cure the Ague and Fever when all other remedies have failed, and "this Medicine (by the Blessing of God) will be its Master".

OUTINGS.

VISIT TO BRICKWORKS

On Monday the 4th of May, members of the Group enjoyed an evening outing into Suffolk to visit Mr. Minter's brickworks near Bulmer. The works have a delightful setting and border on the Romano British settlement on Mr. Cooper's land at Gestingthorpe; a Roman road passes nearby and several Bronze Age urns have been found on the site. Mr. Minter explained the whole process from beginning to end. First we were shown the pit from which the clay is dug and were shown the raw material where it is left to weather. Next we saw the pug mill which churns it up and makes it workable; after which one of Mr. Minter's craftsmen demonstrated with superb skill the making of single bricks from a mould of the type which has been continuously in use since the Middle Ages. Thence to the drying sheds where the wet bricks are carefully stacked to dry out before firing - a process which may take anything from five days to as many weeks according to climatic conditions. One of the kilns was next visited and methods of packing and firing explained; and from inside the construction of the actual kiln was described. Finally, members were shown various types, shapes and colours of bricks and mouldings, some beautifully decorated, the carved oak moulds used for the latter and the special bricks and method used for the construction of a twisted chimney.

COLCHESTER

It is well that "the glorious first of June" is a description of a famous naval battle, not a weather comment, for that date this year produced almost incessant rain, and the annual town walk, under the guidance of Mr. John Bensusan Butt and Mr. Leonard H. Gant, had to be drastically re-arranged. The loyalty of the members shown by their presence was a great encouragement to the guides and those who remained to the end enjoyed an impromptu programme during which the site of an excavation, showing sections of a Roman road running in a north/south direction mid way between Head Street and the town wall on the west, was visited, under the guidance of Mr. Wilson. Messrs. John Blyth and Wilson have recently come into possession of a great number of Roman lamp fragments, recovered from the site of their previous excavation, in West Stockwell Street, and examples of both lamps and moulds were shown and described by Mr. Wilson. The party then walked through the St. Mary's church postern and back through the Balkerne Gate to St. Peter's church, where the south door was described and viewed and the interior architecture, fittings and brasses examined. At that point, our first chairman, Mr. Felix H. Erith took over, and the party ascended to the ringing room in the tower, where Mr. Erith gave a most interesting talk on bell ringing and described the mechanics of ringing, the ringing boards commemorating notable ringing feats, and answered many questions posed by members. Coffee at Thorogood's restaurant completed the impromptu programme, and all enjoyed the evening despite the uncertain weather.

NOTES AND COMMENT

Iron Age Find at East Mersea - Major A.D. Mansfield writes - on 26th May 1964, a farm worker digging in the garden of Bond Green Farm, East Mersea, unearthed a small bowl at a depth of about two feet. The farmer, Mr. A. Wopling, sent the bowl, which was the size of a teacup and had been broken in antiquity, to the Colchester Museum. It has been assigned by the Museum authorities to Iron Age 'B'. Mr. Wopling has no objection to an exploratory dig being carried out and the Museum has suggested that the Group should do this; accordingly, it has been arranged provisionally for Sunday, 16th August 1964. Exact details will be circulated later.

Bronze from Ardleigh Ring Three - Mr. Erith writes that he has heard from Professor Hawkes that the University laboratory hopes to include this in a batch for testing at an early date: If this is done we will publish the result in our next issue.

On Sunday, August 30th, Mr. H.J. Edwards intends to go for a walk to the S.W. of Colchester to view some of the positive, probable and possible Ancient Earthworks in the Stanway and Layer district. He will carry in his hand, a walking stick; in a pocket an Ordnance Map; in a haversack a lunch and hopes that fortune will

guide his footsteps soon after mid-day to a suitable house to complement the last. In view of his age the walk will be in the nature of a gentle stroll but he hopes to be home in time for tea. If any other member of similar tastes would like to accompany him, he will be found starting from Dugard Avenue about five minutes past eleven o'clock.

Mr. Gant writes - The garden of the "Prince of Wales" public house, Magdalen Street, Colchester, has recently produced two clay tobacco pipes with decorated bowls showing Lord Nelson and the figure of Britannia, holding a spray of laurel. Above Nelson's head is the word "Trafalgar". Although made in the first decade of the 19th century, the type of bowl is that which was in common use a century earlier. A similar type was found in The Square, Gt. Yarmouth recently, bearing the Arms of the town, and dating from the early 19th century.

PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1964

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place on Monday 12th October 1964 at 7.30p.m. at St. Runwalds School, Oxford Road, Colchester. Members may raise any point they wish with or without notice. This will mark the beginning of our 1964/5 Winter Programme, full details of which are given overleaf. Coffee will be served at the end of the business meeting after which Mr. F.H. Erith will show some slides of recent Group excavations.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The annual subscription of 10/- falls due on the 1st October and it would be much appreciated if these could be paid promptly. Reminders will be sent to those from whom this has not been received with our December Bulletin - after this the membership will be considered to have lapsed.

This issue contains an illustrated article by Mr. H.M. Carter on the Tripartite Arch; Mrs. Margaret Edwards writes on Dialect and Mr. B.J.N. Edwards on Post Medieval Pottery, The usual Notes and Comment are included and, in this connection, members' attention is drawn to Mr. B.J.N. Edwards' plea for more of these from more members - with which the Editor heartily agrees.

Contributions and enquiries should be sent to Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. (Telephone - Layer de la Haye 274 evenings).

W I N T E R P R O G R A M M E 1 9 6 4 - 5 .

- 12th October - Annual General Meeting & Social - followed by slides of recent Group excavations, shown by Mr. F.H. Erith.
- 19th " - Historical Musical Instruments - Canon Noel Boston - IN THE CASTLE.
- 26th " - A Country Book Club 1788 - Mr. John Bensusan Butt, B.A., R.B.A.
- 2nd November - The History of the Archer's Bow - Mr. W.E. Tucker, F.R.S.A. (illustrated)
- 9th " - Members Finds and Treasures.
- 16th " - Timber Framed Buildings in Essex - Mr. A.C. Edwards.
- 23rd " - Roman Colchester symposium - (i) General picture & relation to Roman Britain.
- 30th " - " " " (ii) The insulae in detail.
- 7th December - " " " (iii) Recent excavations and future plans.
- 14th " - FILM SHOW & SOCIAL - Tickets 2/6 from members of the Committee.
- 11th January - The Bourdonnais Churches - Miss Dorothy Jones (illustrated).
- 18th " - A Coptic Christian site in the Sudan - Mr. B.A. Bonner (illustrated).
- 25th " - Ploughs and Ploughing from early days to the 18th century - Mr. G.E. Fussell.
- 1st February - Victorian Ironmongery - Mr. J.W. Tripp.
- 8th " - The Court Rolls of Bovills Hall - Mr. F.H. Erith (illustrated).
- 15th " - To be arranged.
- 22nd " - Recent excavations at Thetford - Mr. B.K. Davison (illustrated).
- 1st March - The Siege of Colchester - Mr. L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C. (illustrated).
- 8th " - To be arranged.
- 15th " - An archaeological Quiz.

With the exception of 19th October which will be in the Castle
all these meetings will be held at
ST. RUNWALD'S SCHOOL, OXFORD ROAD, COLCHESTER
by kind permission of Mrs.Macauley

at 7.30 p.m.

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

THE TRIPARTITE ARCH

by H. M. Carter

The eastern and western parts of an English church are normally divided by the chancel-arch, a structural feature which also supports the east wall of the nave. Sometimes, however, this arch is absent, either because it has been removed, as at Little Braxted and perhaps at Easthorpe and Little Burstead, or because the building was so planned in the first place, as at Denston.

A much rarer variation is the triple chancel arch, which is found in the earliest churches of south-east England and in a few later examples mainly in the same area. The chapel of Sty Peter-on-the-Wall, Bradwell, (fig. 4) is an example of the first of these groups, and in the second, we have in Essex two splendid buildings, Stebbing (fig. 9) and Great Bardfield. These are stylistically so closely linked with the cathedral of Trondheim (now Nidaros), (fig. 1), that it may be of interest to consider the connection between these buildings, and the origins of the features they possess in common.

Sta Peter's is one of what Clapham called the "Kentish Group" of churches, built under the influence of Augustine's mission in the 7th century. Three of them are in Canterbury, others at Rochester Lyminge and Reculver (fig. 3). All these churches had eastern apses, and all or most of them had these apses divided from the rest of the church by two columns carrying three small arches.

The immediate origin of their planning is in little doubt. Their distinctive characteristics derive from the eastern Mediterranean. Reculver's apse was semicircular internally and multangular without - this is "a commonplace in the eastern Empire, it is hardly represented, outside England, in the western provinces at this date" (Clapham), (figs. 6 & 8) and the arrangement of the porticos, or sacristies and the proportions of the arcades, bear this out, (fig. 7).

We need not be surprised, for in the years after the Moslem conquests of Syria and north Africa, western Europe must have been full of clever and adaptable Greek refugees, some of whom, no doubt, contributed also to the beginnings of the Celto-Saxon manuscript art farther north and west.

Triple arches of proportions similar to Revolver and Sty Peter's are a recurrent motif in Byzantine architecture especially on the shores of the Adriatic, as at S. Maria di Gracie, Grado, in this case from the facade (fig. 2). In the East and in north Africa the apse is often fronted by three arches, but in the earlier examples these, or the alternative architraves, are not structural, do not support any part of the building, and really form a stone screen, which subsequently developed into the Ikonostasis of the Eastern Orthodox church. While this development took place, an even earlier form was retained unchanged by the isolated Abyssinians. There, even today, can be found pairs of free-standing wooden columns called Jerusalem Pillars, (see Playne, "St. George for Ethiopia").

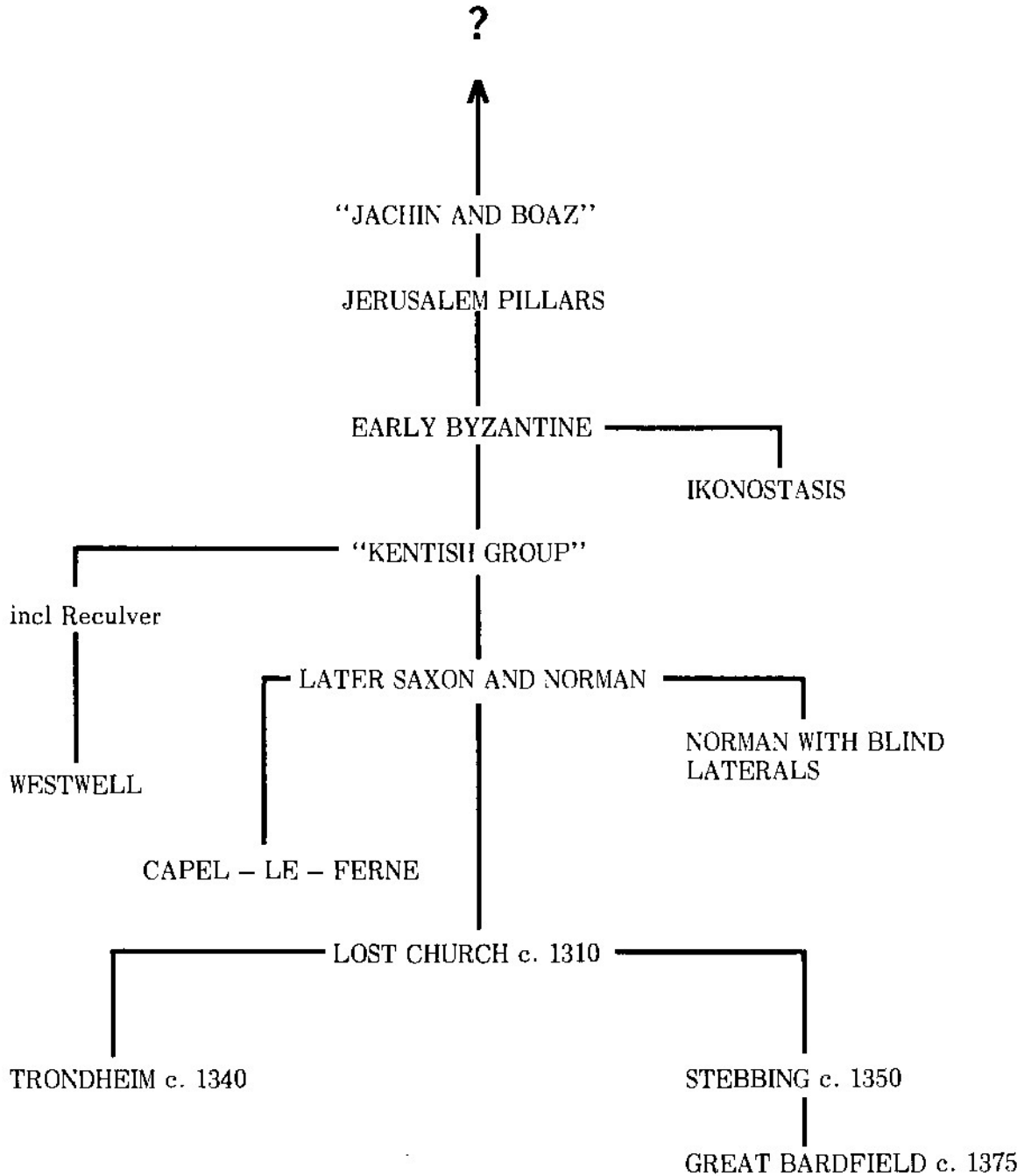
This is a reference to the two columns, Jachin and Boaz, of Solomon's temple described in I Kings 7. 21, which are also often depicted on near-eastern Islamic prayer-rugs. Such pairs of columns, found outside the Treasury of Atreus, the temple of Ur, and many other ancient places represented, Letherby thinks, the Sky Pillars holding up the firmament, and providing an entrance for the daily appearance of the sun.

How general the triple chancel-arch became in Saxon and Norman times we have no means of judging. It is likely that many were demolished as being inconveniently narrow, and were either re-built or omitted. There are, however, several churches in the south-east where a wide Norman arch is flanked by smaller blind arches. The most magnificent of these is Barfreston near Canterbury, and one nearer home is Hadleigh in this county. These suggest that the triple arch, though inconvenient in a small church, was so familiar that the pattern was retained by adding the lateral blind arches, which of course took up less room.

That the Saxon churches could still influence design at a much later date is suggested by Westwell, (fig. 5), about 14 miles from Reculver, where the Reculver arches are reproduced in Gothic - though the tall cylindrical pillars look rather odd with the 13th century detail. The church of Capel-le-Ferne, also in Kent, varies the design by having much wider arches, with an arch above the middle one for the Rood.

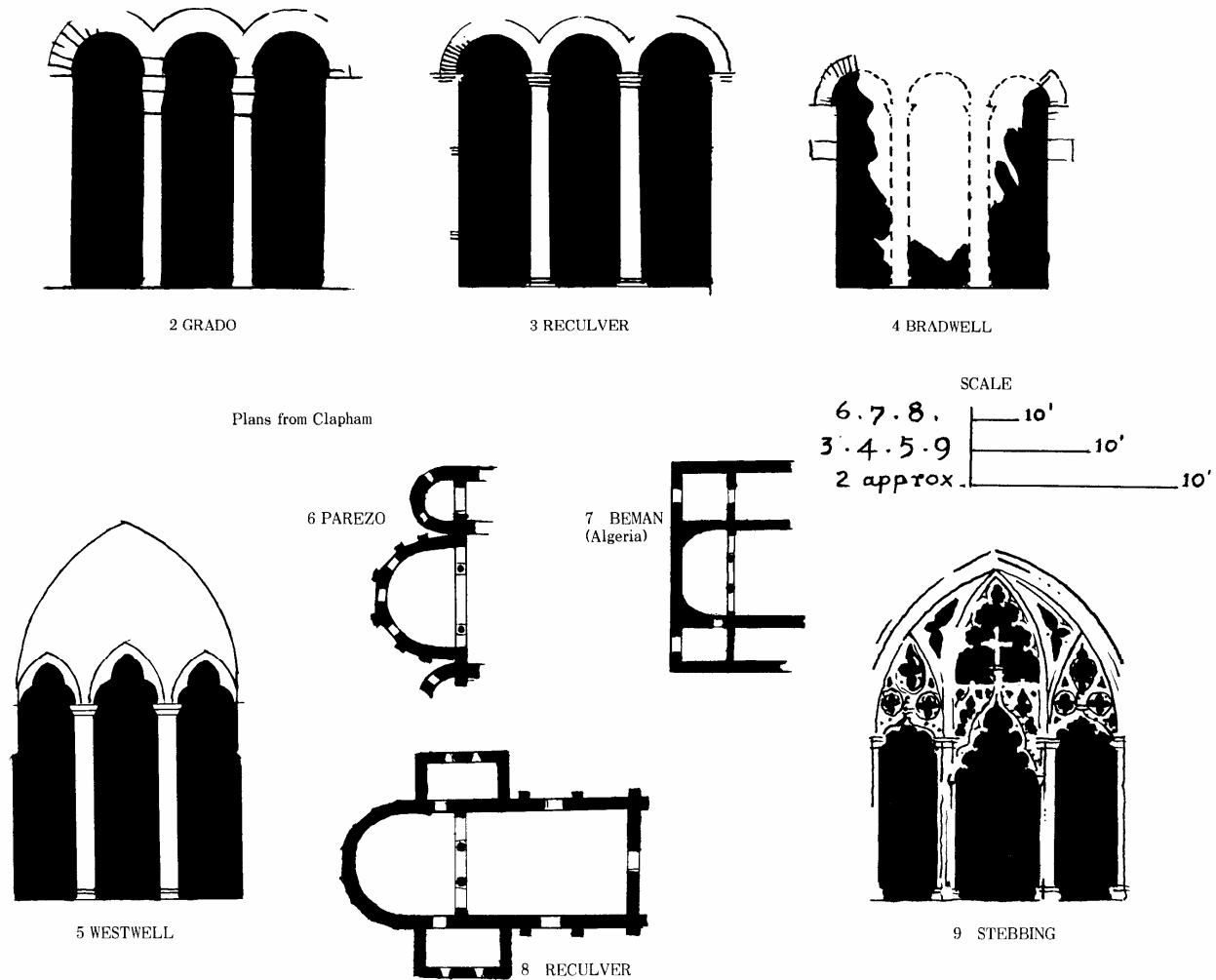
The cathedral of Trondheim was built circa 1340 by Archbishop Eystein, who is known to have visited Canterbury twenty years earlier. The eastern end of the choir is closed by a very elaborate composition, of which the central portion closely resembles the somewhat later Stebbing, though in style perhaps a little earlier than Eystein's English journey. It seems likely to me that he saw some church of moderate size now

lost, and copies the east end of both nave and aisles, filling in the space left above with contemporary work, some of which has a French look, and including a Rood arch similar to that at Capel-le-Ferne, and that this lost Kentish church was also the model for Stebbing, which in turn inspired Great Bardfield a generation later. The relationship of the buildings may therefore be as follows –



TRONDHEIM
(from Meyer, Domkirken i Trondhjm)





DIALECT

By Margaret Edwards, B.A.

A dialect can best be defined as a collection of sounds which characterises the speech of people in a certain area. Dialects are classified, however, not only according to differences of pronunciation of vowels and consonants, but also by differences of intonation (the English spoken in Wales is an outstanding example of this and of items of vocabulary).

Our language developed in a period when ordinary people did little or no travelling, but spent their lives chiefly in their own communities. The laws of the Anglo-Saxon period reveal strict rules concerning the behaviour of those who travelled about the countryside; this was one form of discouragement. In addition, geographical barriers often really were barriers. Thus travelling was physically difficult. Language changes easily, however, and sometimes without our noticing it, and under these conditions Anglo-Saxon developed within the separate communities of the four kingdoms, of Mercia, Wessex, Northumbria and Kent. Yet the relatively small amount of contact between the kingdoms themselves had an effect. Thus some changes in language took place within only a single kingdom, while others spread from one kingdom to another, perhaps doing so in an area where the border between the kingdoms was not of an almost impassable nature. In tracing the development of Anglo-Saxon, therefore, we can see that some changes took place quite early in one kingdom, then, later, spread throughout all, the kingdoms; other changes were confined to the language of perhaps only two of the four kingdoms. Such changes help us to establish 'dialects'.

Of the four Anglo-Saxon dialects, west Saxon was the most important~ Alfred had his court in

Winchester, and when, with his encouragement and support, education and scholarship made tremendous progress, most of the written documents were drawn up in the west Saxon dialect.

The pronunciation of old linguistic forms can be determined by several factors; by reference to several related languages; by reference to the language in all its stages up to the present time, and by paying close attention to poetical rhymes; and by relying on the study of phonetics. Sometimes Anglo-Saxon scribes were diligent in their efforts to record differences of pronunciation as phonetically as possible; and this has proved invaluable to modern scholars.

With the breaking down of the four Anglo-Saxon kingdoms after the Norman Conquest, divisions within the four corresponding dialects occurred. Mercian, for instance, developed into East and West Midland dialects, as a result of the partition, within the kingdom, established at the end of the Danish wars, when East Mercia was overrun and became part of the Danelaw, and West Mercia was incorporated into the west Saxon kingdom. These two dialects continued to develop independently in the middle English period. The Middle English of Essex, too, reveals independent developments; firstly, a number of Scandinavian loans was adopted, but not in Kent, whereas previously these two areas had shared a dialect; secondly Old English *ǣ* was retracted to *ā* before all consonants. This retraction took place also in Northern Middle English, but only before 'r'. Hence forms such as 'waren' and 'arst' ('were' and 'first') could occur in either dialect; but 'bemande' ('lamented') could exist only in Essex.

These differences between the dialects were, as before, preserved in the written documents of the times, but gradually there arose a great confusion in the spelling system. English-trained scribes were, after the Conquest, when English was unfashionable, replaced by French-trained scribes, who tried to break down the spelling systems which had become 'conventional' by the late Anglo-Saxon period. This spelling was admittedly not always a true record of all the changes of pronunciation which had taken place, and the French scribes did try to replace it with a system based on the pronunciation then used; but in doing so they often introduced French scribal devices.

Before the Conquest, West Saxon had been almost the standard form of Anglo-Saxon; but when London became the most important centre in the country, the London dialect, a descendant not of west Saxon but of East Mercian, was regarded as the standard language. It in fact contained features of several dialects. In cases where a Northern and Southern form of a word existed, a 'selection' took place. Sometimes, however, both forms were retained, even if one form was used to refer to a different object, as in the case of 'shirt' and 'skirt'. The 'sh' of 'shirt' was a descendant of the Anglo-Saxon 'sc'. In 'skirt' the 'sk' is from a Scandinavian form borrowed first by the speakers of Northern and Eastern dialects. Scandinavian forms of pronouns were taken into the developing standard language along with the forms descended from Anglo Saxon, among which there was a certain amount of confusion arising from several instances of similarity of form. Hence Modern English 'he' is from west Saxon and Southern Middle English; 'she' and 'them' are from Scandinavian forms taken first into Northern Middle English.

During the thirteenth to seventeenth centuries more and more people learned to read and write. The invention of the printing press helped to spread the writings of learned men, poets, dramatists, politicians, and people became aware of the need to have a standard system of written representation. The London dialect had become established as the standard spoken language. Several attempts were made to represent it by a single system, but this was not achieved until the end of the eighteenth century. Since then our language has undergone comparatively little change,

This, then, is a very brief outline of the development of the different forms of English that are spoken today. An attempt has been made to show that language is a flexible thing, and that Standard English as it is known today was not an original language from which people 'lapsed' into dialect, but is a kind of artificial dialect which has not, however, been confined to the people of any one area, but has enabled people in all parts of the country to communicate with each other more easily.

POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY

By B.J.N. Edwards, B.A.

The scope covered by that extraordinary umbrella term 'archaeology' is constantly widening. In the nineteenth century it could be defined as 'Ancient history generally.....spec. the scientific study of the remains and monuments of the prehistoric period'. (New English Dictionary, Oxford, 1888). Today, with the rise of such studies as medieval archaeology, which developed between the wars from architectural history, and more recently industrial archaeology, we have reached the stage where it can be said that the study of archaeology begins yesterday. One field, however, which has been neglected until very recently lies in date between medieval archaeology and industrial archaeology. Much is known of the history of the period, but very little of the pottery. This study was put on a firm basis by the formation, in November, 1963, of the Post medieval Ceramic Research Group. The limits of the concern of the Group were formally set as 'Ceramics from c.1500 to the non-porcellaneous wares of c.1750'. The Group was constituted at a week-end Conference held at Bristol, and the Secretary (K.J. Barton) read an address which was reproduced in the Group's first cyclostyled Broadsheet (January, 1964) and from which I have taken a number of points.

The attention of the art-historian had, of course, been directed to porcelain and similar wares falling within the chosen period long ago, and from this point a few art-historians, notably Sir Arthur Church, strayed into the study of earthenware also. But much of the work was done with material with no archaeological data. Conclusions were drawn and, even when stated with due caution, were often repeated as facts, and copied frequently.

The regional character of post-medieval no less than of medieval pottery is important, and to this end material collected with no more data than the name and location of the site from which it came is useful.

Of course there are references in literature, both specifically archaeological and otherwise, but they are often very slight, and require a great deal of following up. The sort of work which can be done in this way was beautifully illustrated by Mr. Erith's article in the June 1964 issue of this Bulletin.

The change from production and use of medieval pottery to post medieval pottery was, as might be expected, a gradual one, and was influenced by a number of factors. Of these the most important were technical developments, in kilns and glazes, and new shapes of vessel, much influenced by imported vessels. Any collection of medieval pottery proper will consist largely of vessels which can be labelled jugs and cooking pots, the latter being a convenient term for a vessel more or less globular and fairly narrow mouthed, and usually without handle or spout. Anything that could be described as a mug, bowl or plate will be unusual. As the sixteenth century advanced these forms became commoner, and were presumably influenced by developments outside ceramics. The greater ease of making metal vessels, combined with cheapness (and these two factors are, of course, inter-related) led to the obsolescence of the cooking pot which had its last flowering in the form of the pipkin, which had a handle and sometimes feet. The import of ceramic drinking vessels led to the abandonment of the horn mug, and the ability to make glazes which would cover a vessel completely instead of patchily, as so often happened with medieval vessels, led to the development of bowls and dishes to replace their wooden predecessors. Other developments in slip ware, tin glaze, salt glaze and the like followed, and some of the types of ware and vessels which began in the chosen period continued in production until very recently, and a few are still made.

What can the members of a Group such as ours do towards the study of post medieval pottery? There are three places where work can be done, and of course they all tie in together. The first of these is in the Library or Record Office. Here work of the kind exemplified by Mr. Erith's article already quoted can be done. Secondly, in the field. Here the identification of sites and the collection of all sherds from them, not merely those that are large or look old, will be of value. As long as collections are suitably labelled, even if little in the way of true archaeological data can be obtained, they will help in establishing the regional character of the pottery. Sites of this kind, like those of other periods, will frequently be revealed by operations of building or cultivation. Ultimately it may be possible to excavate a site of this kind. Thirdly, in museums, where post medieval material may be on show, but it is more likely to be in store. Judicious enquiry here will help to fill in the picture.

And when you have got your material or your data, what to do with them? Write and tell our Secretary, or me, or the Secretary of the Post-medieval Ceramic Research Group, K.J. Barton, Keeper, The County Museum, Hartlebury Castle, Nr. Kidderminster, Worcs.

NOTES AND COMMENT

THE TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW was held at Lawford on July 11th and, as usual, the Group took part, with a stand entitled Tendring Hundred in Older Time.

The Bradfield funeral helmet with crest and crimson mantling was mounted high in front of the title heading and made a very effective centrepiece which caught the eye as one entered the tent,

Below this was arranged a series of seven maps enlarged from the 1806 Ordnance Survey, and under these a run of tabling to hold illustrations and artifacts. The maps demonstrated aspects of the hundred's history in chronological order - the first showing prehistoric and Roman sites and the red hills, with a collection of flints, pottery and other objects below. The second and third maps related the hundred to the medieval and subsequent periods, marking the Domesday place-names, shipbuilding, moats, fishponds and Martello towers. Among the illustrations of buildings and monuments below, a figure of St. Osyth carrying her head and dripping gore was widely regarded as good comic relief. We were fortunate in getting the loan of a very rare photograph of a frigate being refitted in Harwich Navy yard. The fourth map showed mills and smithies and was supported by a collection showing the changing fashions in horse shoes and nails, and implements from the smithy and the mill, Number five showed communications, watering places and duck decoys, illustrated by prints (especially interesting of early Mistle), a miniature brougham, and a lively and accurate model of a duck decoy. Next came "A Remarkable Run with the Local Hounds" - in 1815, unearthed from a contemporary diary. Unlike St. Osyth, this was taken most seriously and much meditated upon by grave-looking people in riding boots. (This is not surprising: hounds ran 25 miles between 3 and 6 o'clock on a late February afternoon), The seventh map showed "Wartime Excavations", with an invitation to the visitor to mark "his" bomb with the appropriate coloured pin - incendiary, lard-mine and so on; this produced much interest and discussion and nearly 70 bangs were plotted. A group of Mr. F.A. Girling's beautiful and nostalgic photographs of farming in the Tendring Hundred completed a frontage of 40 feet.

It is essential, in a show like this, with a very mixed general public, to strike a satisfactory balance between the familiar and the esoteric and the organisers felt that they had to some extent succeeded in doing so. It also seemed to them that a small carefully arranged collection, such as the prehistoric and Roman, interested many people more than the large and rather intimidating collections of a museum, Certainly, the number of visitors to the stand, especially after the weather improved at midday, astonished us, and so did the length of time many of them stayed and the interest shown. There would not have been room for many more during the afternoon and many applications for membership were received. A pleasant feature of the occasion was the willing co-operation of public bodies and private persons in lending exhibits; among them the Colchester museums, the County society, the Essex Record Office, the vicar of Bradfield, an ex M.F.H, whose pink coat we borrowed, and a number of others.

B.J.N. Edwards writes:

I received my Bulletin a few days ago, and on looking through it I came to the conclusion that the ordinary members, you and I, are not pulling our weight with it. Take away the work of a devoted few - Erith, Gant, Mansfield, you all know them, so let no one be offended if he is not mentioned - and where would the Bulletin be? Now, by the time that you read this most of you will have been on holiday fairly recently, and your interest in archaeology in its widest sense cannot be very great if you have not seen something in the course of your holiday which would interest your fellow-members. I know that if our Editor asked you, you would protest that you could not write an article about it. That is probably not true, if you really tried, but even if it were, that is what this section - Notes and Comment - is for. That is where the strength of the Bulletin ought to lie. So let us all make the thankless task of the Editor a little easier this session by writing something for the Bulletin in good time. If it is stimulated by something in this issue, write it today, not tomorrow, and get it in the post to Mrs. de Brisay. Who knows, she might even have a choice of articles for the next issue! Finally, to prove that I can take my own medicine, I am enclosing with this note an article of my own and two by my wife.

(Note: Mrs. Edwards' 2nd article will appear in our next issue - Editor).

OUTING

On Monday, July 27th, some members visited the beautiful little 12th century church at Copford. The party was welcomed by the Rev. T. Hollingdale who gave an historical account of the church and of its incomparable wall paintings, some of which are to be restored. A perfect summer's evening added to the charm of the mural setting. A journey of a few miles took us to Coggeshall and to Paycocke's House in West Street. This is a National Trust property and the present tenants, Mr. and Mrs. McAuliffe, showed us round the house and garden. The house contains many original fireplaces and some fine carvings which were much admired. This attractive half timbered house has a facade right along the street consisting of five bays and was built by a wealthy local clothier as a wedding present for his son, Thomas Paycocke and the initial 'T' and 'M' for Mary, his bride, appear many times in the carved beams. Unfortunately time did not permit visits to other places in this delightful little town and these must be left for another occasion.

H.J. Edwards writes:

To one who is always on the lookout for news of Trade Signs, the highlight of "An Early Colchester Newspaper" by L.H. Gant in the June Bulletin was the report of the printer and bookseller at 'The Printing Press and the Two Red Bibles'.

It was quite a usual thing for a shopkeeper to use as a sign something which he sold and indeed we still have in Colchester among others a jeweller showing a Ring and an ironmonger with a Kettle. It was therefore only to be expected that the bookseller should use a Book. After the Reformation the Bible became a 'best-seller' and so the bookseller almost invariably used a Bible as his Sign. Its very popularity caused confusion so the bookseller combined various objects with the Bible. Hence we have the 'Bible and Key', 'Bible and Lamb' and so on. But the most popular variations were in number and colour. The colour most used was blue and the 'Three Blue Bibles' was much in evidence. The Three Bibles appear on the Arms of the Stationers Company.

The Booksellers Sign was adopted like so many others for a public house sign but I doubt if it exists now. There might be a real booksellers Sign about somewhere. Does anybody know of one? Colchester, a few years ago, boasted a Sign of a book outside a booksellers but it did not claim to be a Bible.

EXCAVATIONS

As arranged the site at East Mersea where the Iron Age vessel was found was investigated on Sunday 16th August by kind permission of Mr. Wopling. Under the direction of Major A.D. Mansfield, a trench 12 x 4 feet was excavated down to the natural gravel with no result whatever and one can only suppose this isolated find was entirely fortuitous. However, one discovery was made - that of two rings in the standing wheat in the adjoining field which slopes gently down to the marshes bordering the Pye Fleet channel and we hope to arrange for test trenches over these soon.

The dig on the Iron Age settlement site at Vines Farm, Ardleigh, by kind permission of Mr. F.H. Erith, began the following weekend under the direction of Mr. P.R. Holbert. In spite of the very hard state of the ground two trenches have been cut and the inner and outer ditches defined; but work is still going on and we hope to report on this very interesting site more fully at a later date.

PART FOUR DECEMBER 1964

At the Annual General Meeting of the Group held on Monday, the 12th October 1964, the following Officers and Committee were elected:-

Chairman	Major A.D. Mansfield
Vice Chairman	Mr. L.H. Gant
Hon. Secretary	Mrs K. de Brisay.
Hon. Editor	Mrs, K. de Brisay.
Hon. Treasurer	Miss D. Jones
Public Relations	Mr L.H. Gant
Committee	Mrs Carter, Mr H.M. Carter, Mr. F.H. Erith, Mr. A.J. Fawn, Mr A.B. Doncaster, Mr H.W. Palmer, Mr. P.R. Holbert

It was also agreed that the price of the Bulletin to non-members be raised to 1/6 to help towards increased cost of production.

The address of the new Treasurer is:- Miss D. Jones, Farthing Garden, Layer Breton Heath, Colchester, Essex, to whom subscriptions should be sent.

The programme for the meetings in 1965 may be found overleaf. There is illustrated account of recently discovered crop marks by Mr. F.H. Erith; also included is a report on our meetings during the Autumn of 1964 together with Notes and Comment and an article by Mr. W.H. Spyvee on Wall Paintings which we hope will lead to a new Group project next year.

Enquiries to Mrs., K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye- Colchester, Tel. 274.

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1965.

- 18th January - A Coptic Christian site in the Sudan - Mr. B.A. Bonner (Illustrated).
25th " - Ploughs & Ploughing from early days to the 18tho century - Mr~ G. E. Fussell.
1st February - Victorian Ironmongery - Mr. J. W. Tripp.
8th " - The Court Rolls of Bovills Hall – Mr. F. H. Erith (illustrated)
15th " - Excavations at Dorchester on Thames - Mr. Mark Hassall.
22nd " - The investigation of a late Saxon town - recent excavations at Thetford
- Mr. B.K. Davison (illustrated)
1st March - The Siege of Colchester - Mr. L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C. (illustrated)
8th " - Prehistoric, Roman & Saxon Cambridge – Dr. John Alexander M.A., F.S.A.
15th " - The Bourdonnais Churches - Miss Dorothy Jones (illustrated)
22nd " - An archaeological Quiz.

All meetings are held at
ST. RUNWALDS SCHOOL, OXFORD ROAD, COLCHESTER.
by kind permission of Mrs. Macauley.
at 7.30 pm.
GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

NOTES & COMMENT

Mr. L. H. Gant writes:

I wonder how many people have noted a Roman imbrex tile, half-round and tapering, used to lock the roofing tiles, in the south face of Holy Trinity church tower?

The tile is used in the construction which includes much other Roman material and is set end on, showing the curved section on the face of the wall. Although all trace above ground of the Abbey of St. John and its church are lost, the Gateway contains many pieces of Norman worked and carved stone in its fabric, the chevron ornament predominating.

A close examination of the abbey perimeter wall, which, incidentally encloses the Great Plague burial mound, might reveal much interesting stone and brick work, and, of course, much remains to be discovered about the Roman wall to the town.

A Group walk round the Abbey wall might produce some useful observations, and if one could dismantle the rockery in the garden of Government House, adjoining the Abbey Gateway, much interesting material would be found!

NEWLY DISCOVERED CROPMARKS AT GREAT BROMLEY AND ELSEWHERE

by F.H. Erith.

The weather in 1964 was not good for showing cropmarks in corn in the Colchester area. The June rainfall was 3.82 inches, and both wheat and barley received all the moisture they needed for a full crop. However, the weather suddenly changed and the drought from July to October caused the later-maturing crops, such as sugar-beet and kale to suffer, especially over gravel subsoils,

I had heard that cropmarks were seen some years ago during harvest at Badley Hall farm, Great Bromley - so this was one of the sites that I asked Mr. Michael Clover to try and photograph from the air some time during the summer.

During July and August Mr. Clover saw cropmarks from the air in four or five places, but only at Dedham were any seen in corn, and these were very faint. Cropmarks in the form of circles were seen in sugar-beet at Great Bromley in Essex and at Erwarton in Suffolk. (Fig 1) At Shotley a double concentric circle was visible in a field cropped partly with kale and partly with sugar-beet, and the cropmark straddled across both crops! (Fig 2.) These last two places are on the north side of the Stour estuary opposite Harwich.

At Badley Hall Farm, Great Bromley, Mr. Clover saw nothing in the corn crops, but very pronounced marks were observed in a field of sugar-beet and photographed. Among other things the markings showed a group of five circles close together - that is, within an area of one or two acres. (Fig 3. But it was not until September, when the photographs were developed, that one could do the necessary fieldwork and identify the cropmarks from the ground. And if there had been any appreciable rain between the time the photographs were taken (late July) and the time they were developed and available for study (mid September) there would have been nothing to see. However the drought had persisted, so it was probable that the cropmarks would still be there.

The Fieldwork

I got in touch with Mr., Richard Hayward, who farms Badley Hall, and went with him to his sugar-beet field. One circle, of 25 yards diameter, was plainly visible, (Fig 4.) This was the largest and most pronounced one in the photograph, but of the other four circles there was no trace.

The way sugar-beet is affected by a drought is by the wilting of the leaves. The plants standing over the circle of this largest ring were upstanding and vigorous, with their leaves a thriving dark green colour. The rest of the field (except over some ancient field ditches) consisted of beets whose leaves had completely shriveled up and turned brown. This was so even for the other four ring-ditches of the air photograph. The deduction to be made here is that the other four ring-ditches were much shallower than the visible one, and that the continuing drought had become too much even for the plants over the circles.

I intimated to Mr. Hayward that this circle was the remains of a Barrow which had been levelled in antiquity, and that there was probably a cremation in a Middle Bronze Age Urn in the exact centre. I had to assure him that, even if he were agreeable, it was unlikely that any proper excavation could be undertaken at this site in the foreseeable future. There were too many other recently discovered sites, and the Museum staff were committed to attending to "rescue" digs in Colchester. The proper excavation of a 25 yard diameter ring ditch is a formidable task, especially with the ground as hard as concrete.

Perhaps understandably this state of affairs seemed unsatisfactory to Mr. Hayward as the next day he took a pick, dug a hole, and discovered the Urn, which was indeed a Middle Bronze Age Urn over a cremation. (Fig 5.) However, the ground was so hard and the Urn so crumbly that, it was thought advisable for a member of the Museum staff to extricate it.

The Urn

The vessel is a tripartite Collared Urn decorated with a pattern of cord impressed triangles. Height 17 inches. Diameter at rim 11 inches, at collar 15 inches, and at base 52 inches. It is now being repaired by Miss Carol Williams of the Colchester Castle Museum.

The bones, about 6 pints, were examined by Mr. H.E.P. Spencer, of Ipswich. He said they belonged to two individuals, one an adult, and the other a child of four years old.

The Implications

Ten years ago it was thought that there had been no Bronze Age Barrows in N.E. Essex. But the many recent finds, (sparked off by Mr. Girling's discovery of a circle in sugar-beet at Dedham) have completely altered the picture.

Now we have groups of ring-ditches, almost certainly the remains of Barrows, in several adjoining villages: Dedham, Ardleigh, Lawford, Langham, Great Bromley. The Dedham, Ardleigh, and Great Bromley groups contain mixtures of large circles (20 - 25 yard diameter) and small (4 - 13 yard diameter). Excavations of small ones at Ardleigh have yielded Late Bronze Age Urn cremations. Excavations of large ones at Dedham and Great Bromley have yielded Middle Bronze Age Urn cremations. We have yet to find out if all large ones are M.B.A. and all small ones are L.B.A., or whether a group containing both large and small ring ditches is made up of a mixture of the two cultures, since so far no excavation has been done of both large and small ring-ditches in any one group.

And what culture erected the "double concentric circles", as at Shotley (above), and at Langham and St. Osyth (C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. VI. No 3). They have been associated with both the larger and smaller size of ring-ditch. The one at East Tilbury had a beaker shaped Urn in the centre, and was found to be the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. When the large, the small and the double ring ditches all appear in the same group, as at St. Osyth, can they possibly represent three different cultures?

Map reference of Great Bromley group.

In the C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. VI. No. 4 (Dec. 1963) we showed a map giving ring ditches in the Ardleigh and Great Bromley region. Five barrows were then plotted for Great Bromley. To these must now be added the new group of five at Badley Hall. The map reference for these is TM.02.087270.

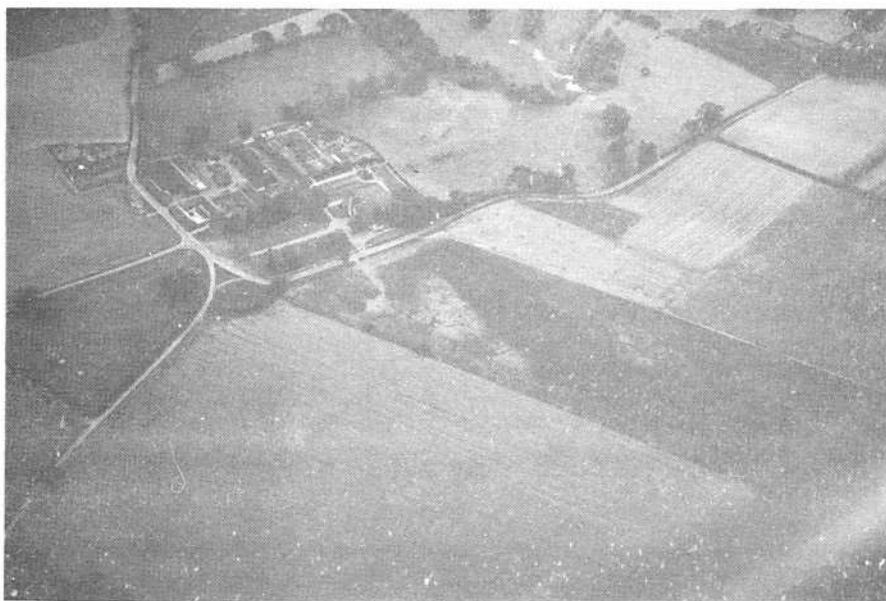


Fig. 1 – An incomplete circle in sugar-beet near Ewarton Hall, Suffolk



Fig.2 - A double concentric circle at Shotley, half in sugar beet and half in kale. Also another circle in the kale.



Fig. 3 A group of five ring-ditches in sugar-beet at Badley Hall, Great Bromley



Fig. 4 – The largest of the above ring-ditches in the sugar-beet from the ground.



Fig. 5 – The urn at the centre of the ring-ditch in Fig. 4



Fig. 6 – Crop marks in a field of cabbages at Badley Hall, Great Bromley, awaiting elucidation from future crop-marks, perhaps when the field is cropped with corn.

Afterthoughts on a visit to Feering House, Kelvedon.

24th October, 1964.

by W. H. F. Spyvee.

All members who visited Feering House were grateful to Dr. David Carrick for his hospitality and particularly for showing and explaining the medieval murals adorning an upstairs room in his house, in which he has carefully preserved its many ancient features.

Our enjoyment of the murals were whetted by an erudite, explanatory and inspiring lecture previously given by Mr. Clive Rouse, whom Dr. Carrick had also invited to talk to us on both Church and domestic murals.

Mr. Rouse has been studying and working on his subject for 35 years, a member of the Pilgrim Trust, he is a nationally recognised authority. His talk was illustrated by photographs used to demonstrate examples and the history of murals in general.

Murals were not to make the churches beautiful and they were not intended to be masterpieces for the admiration of congregations. That they did beautify it beyond question; that many of the country's finest artists were engaged to paint the walls of the great churches in the land is plain from the records and from the few remaining examples.

Church murals, mainly painted from the eleventh to the sixteenth centuries, depicted scenes from the Bible, miracles, dramatic episodes, etc. First and foremost they were to illustrate and so to penetrate the understanding of an illiterate congregation (strip cartoons now perform this function) of those events and phenomena they heard about during the church service To make them intelligible there was a "language" in the paintings of the scenes which was perfectly understood by all, illiterates though they were. For instance, the "soup plate" behind the head meant a good man, not necessarily a saint; headgear or the lack of it depicted rank, king, priest or poor man; the pointing finger was judgment; the flat palm facing outwards the judge; the bent finger the person speaking, etc. When this simple "language" is understood the meanings in the pictures are plain.

Walls in big and small churches were always covered with plaster, it is now mainly stripped for us to admire the stonework; such display is contrary to the intention of the builders, who gave the walls a smooth finish as "canvasses" for the painters. This explains much of the rough masonry finish to interior as compared with exterior walls.

The anti-Poperyites, Victorian "restorers" and others have robbed us of this heritage and little remains, but what does remain is worthy of record now before further destruction follows it is still going on.

An Archaeological Group is a suitable body to undertake this recording for the sake of posterity, such work surely is true Archeology.

Whilst techniques will have to be worked out, flash-light and infra-red photography, draftsmanship and interpretation appear to be obvious skills which may be needed to do the work efficiently Successfully done it might be found some time in the future that a small book in similar format to that of our Bulletin, could be published for permanent record,

Stoke-by-Clare Church, I believe, would be a good starting-off subject to test our ability to complete something worthwhile.

AUTUMN MEETINGS 1964

The annual meeting was held at St. Runwald's School on Monday October 12th. The members were welcomed by the chairman, Major A.D. Mansfield, who said a very interesting programme of talks had been arranged for the winter sessions. In her annual report the honorary secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay reviewed the varied activities of the Group during the past year and reported steady progress in membership, which now stands at 144. Thanks were expressed to the officers and to the press for their continued help. The accounts showed a reduced balance in hand, the main expenditure being on the production of the quarterly bulletin, which enjoyed a wide circulation. The officers were re-elected, with the substitution of Miss D. Jones as honorary treasurer. The committee also was re-elected, with Mr. P.R. Holbert in place of Mr. H.J. Edwards, who resigned. The meeting unanimously elected Mr. H.J. Edwards, one of the six founder members a life vice-president of the Group. The meeting agreed to join the Essex Congress of Archaeological and Historical Societies and the Colchester Civic Society, and to support the Colchester Excavation Committee. Following discussion of financial problems, it was decided to invite guests to the lectures to contribute to the funds, to raise the price of the Bulletin, and to promote fund raising efforts during the winter.

The ancient walls of Colchester Castle resounded to the sound of ancient musical instruments on the 19th October when Canon Noel Boston, of East Dereham, the well known authority on this subject, gave a talk and display on ancient musical instruments. He said that the study of musicology had progressed in recent times and sought to perform music on contemporary instruments. Old music, he said, was like old oil paintings, and until the surface blemishes had been removed, the often splendid pictures beneath were not appreciated. So it is with old scores, but we as yet know all too little of the techniques of playing the old instruments. Canon Boston, in his characteristic and rumbustuous manner, demonstrated flutes and flageolets, the double flageolet being a favourite with the audience, the clarinet, which was widely used in church music in bygone times. After the Commonwealth very few screen organs remained in churches, and bands were formed to play in the gallery of the church. The speaker's dexterity and technique on the old wood wind instruments delighted the audience and gave an indication of the tone and attractiveness of the combination of wood wind. With the development of martial music during the 18th century, brass instruments were evolved, and in this group Canon Boston demonstrated the sackbut, ophicleide and early 19th century cornet. The audience will long remember the performance of the beaming canon, marching before them playing the tune to "On Ilkey Moor Ba Tat" on the enormous serpent, and singing with gusto the words of a well known hymn! To conclude a talk, punctuated not only by musical examples but whole hearted laughter, Canon Boston spoke of organs, and demonstrated not only an old miniature pipe organ, and other equally old table organs, but also showed a working model of the action of a modern Hammond electric organ.

A poem, written by a young Colchester man who was impressed into the Royal Navy in the 18th century, and later became a lieutenant in the Marines, was the subject of an interesting and amusing talk by Mr. John Bensusan-Butt, given on the 26th October. The author, Charles Shillito, was the son of a well known Colchester card maker, engaged in the woollen trade, who was a member of the Castle Book Club founded by Mr. Charles Gray and the Rev. Philip Morant. The identity of the country book club described in the poem, however, remains unknown, despite wide research and inquiry by the speaker. It may well be that the club was a mythical one, invented by the author, who, as one contemporary reviewer said, had ample time whilst at sea, for reflection and composition of poems. The topographical clues to the identity of the village where the local gentry and artisans met lead to no definite place, and the members, so well described and humorously drawn in verse, might belong to almost any village at that time. The published list of subscribers was examined, and the persons described by Mr. Butt in his own inimitable way.

The history of the archers' bow covers a period of thousands of years, from the time of prehistoric man, who left cave paintings of hunted animals and their hunters, to modern laminated or steel bows which can send a shaft a distance of a quarter of a mile. The fascinating story was told on November 2nd by Mr. Bill Tucker, the well known archer antiquarian. The lecture was illustrated by many colour slides, and a lively discussion took place following the talk.

The meeting held on 9th November was the occasion when members presented and described their finds and treasured antiquities. The display included a fine military blunderbuss, with spring bayonet and a pair of silver mounted pistols by William Brander of London dated 1769. An old book, found in the attic of a country house, was shown, and coins, incense burner and pomander, with Roman tiles bearing the impress of a thumb and of a dog's paws, pointed to the diversity of interests of the members. An 8ft panoramic view of London, published in 1840, a map of Europe used in a game with dice and counters, dated 1794 and a certificate of the award of the degree of Doctor of Medicine, Vienna, 1781, together with a housewife's recipe book of the 17th century had the double interest of content and production. Among smaller objects were a

Roman brooch, an ivory toothpick and case, an oriental vessel, a balance and weights used by a ship's captain for measuring out medicine to his crew, an iron spur, Victorian woven slippers, an amusing pair of whisker brushes, a framed emblem showing St. George and the Dragon, a piece of petrified wood found in a near-east desert during boring for oil, Colchester transport tickets of ½d. to 1½d value, a cattle drover's headed stick, and Friendly Society regalia of the 19th century,

The subject of ancient buildings is an attractive one for any lecturer, but when colour transparencies and vignettes of local history are added, the result is a talk of more than usual interest. Mr. A.C. Edwards, a senior member of the staff of the Essex Record Office, spoke to the Group on 16th November, on the subject of timber framed buildings in Essex, and said that research, and particularly study of recently discovered maps by Walker, the 17th century cartographer, suggested a much earlier date for many such buildings than had been hitherto assigned to them. The oldest aisled halls and barns, often restored almost beyond recognition, still existed in Essex, and, with medieval cottages numbered some thousands. The talk was excellently illustrated with colour transparencies and the lecturer, with his inimitable style and ready humour delighted a large audience.

The first of a symposium of talks on Roman Colchester was given to a large audience of members and friends on November 23rd by Mr. David T.-D Clarke, who spoke on the Colonia and its relation to Roman Britain.

The lecture was illustrated by many colour slides and plans, and proved an admirable introduction to the series of three lectures to be devoted to this subject. Mr. Clarke, in a lively and provocative manner, traced the history of the Romans in Britain, their founding of Colonia, and its subsequent relation to the rest of occupied Britain during the Roman era. Of the Balkerne Gate he said we should be specially proud, for it is the finest piece of original Roman brickwork in Britain, and he hoped, in the proposed development of the area, it would be given the treatment and the surroundings it so rightly deserved. The Romano-British temple sites and the Mithraeum in the Holly Trees grounds were illustrated and described, and in the discussion which followed the talk, many questions were posed concerning the history of the town in Roman times. Mr. Clarke said that it may well be that as the river Colne would have been navigable to a point much beyond its present tidal limit, we have been looking in the wrong place for wrecked ships or lost cargoes, which may lay in the mud of the river between the Hythe and the Sheepen. Further study and distribution maps were also needed showing the movement of Colchester-made wares, some of which travelled to Scotland, and the coins minted in the Roman town would make an interesting and helpful study. References to Roman social life caused some amusement, but, although the existence of the public buildings is known, very little definite evidence can be produced as yet on the ground.

The history of Roman Colchester never fails to attract a keen audience, and the Group was fortunate on November 3rd in having Mr. M.R. Hull to speak on this subject. Using a diagrammatic plan of the Roman city, Mr. Hull dealt first with the walls and detailed the construction, its towers and gates, and the main streets which led to or through them. Having plotted the most important sites, the speaker proceeded to explain every insula until forty divisions were filled with streets, houses, villas, public buildings, tessellated pavements, temples and shops, and so displayed not only an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Roman City, born of a lifetime of study and excavation, but a feat of memory rarely met with. His brilliant exposition of the Roman history of the town was fully appreciated by a large audience. A series of colour slides and plans concluded the talk which was the second in a series.

The final lecture in a short course on the history of Roman Colchester was given on the 7th December, The lecturers were Mr. Brian Blake and Miss Rosalind Dunnnett, members of the staff of the Castle Museum, assisted by Mr. David Clarke. Mr. Blake described recent excavations at Chitts Hills, Lexden, where the triple dyke was exposed and examined, also Grimes dyke in Stanway, the supposed boundary of Cunobelin's territory. The two small temples at the Sheepen were described in detail, and many excellent colour transparencies were projected to illustrate the talk. The work on a house site now being excavated at Lawn Garth, was also described and illustrated. Miss Rosalind Dunnnett completed the chronological account of recent excavations by describing and illustrating the investigation of the western wall of the temple precincts and the site in East Stockwell Street which may hold one of the most remarkable finds of recent years. Here massive walls, firmly set on wide foundations and coursed with septaria and tile suggest an important public building of Roman times. The Roman Kilns on Hilly Fields site and investigation in the south west corner at Balkerne Lane were also described. In the general discussion which followed the talks many members took part and the museum staff, including the curator, acquitted themselves well, answering many diverse questions on Roman Colchester.