

The Cadland Estate

The 'Shock of Recognition' — Places and the People

17 February Gilly Drummond O.B.E. D.L. gave a talk to the Society about the Cadland Estate.

For 12,000 years ways of life in the area, where Southampton Water meets the Solent, has been shaped by the long shoreline, constantly changing sea levels and river patterns. Except for communication by water the area was isolated for most of that period. There was even no metalled road until 1924.

Gilly demonstrated the rich archaeological content of the area with, among other things, slides of a c.8000 B.C. Stone Age Hand Axe from Stanswood Bay and a Bronze Age hoard of 70 mint condition Palstave Axe Heads from the Estate, the latter having been the biggest hoard ever found in Southern England until a recent find in Dorset. For the Celtic period, the Estate had yielded a Durotriges Celtic silver *stater* coin.



A series of maps to illustrate changes in the area over time. The Great Storm of 1703 wreaked havoc across Southern England, changing the configuration of the coast along the Solent dramatically. Gilly put forward a personal theory that the road down to Stone Point at Lepe was built by the Romans to enable them to hold the Isle of Wight, using the short crossing to Gurnard on the Isle.

In 1241 the Manor of Cadland acquired Titchfield Abbey. In the 16th century Thomas Wriothesley obtained both Beaulieu and Titchfield Abbey, turning the latter into a mansion called Place House. In 1772 Robert Drummond bought the Manor of Cadland from William, Lord Talbot. In further slides Gilly showed the Holland and Brown drawing for the original

Cadland House on Southampton Water (on the site which is now the Exxon oil refinery) and Capability Brown's 1777 plan for the Double Octagon Fishing Cottage.

Among modern photographs of the Estate was one showing Cadland House surrounded by a stockade of Scots Pine to protect it against shrapnel from anti-aircraft guns.

In conclusion, Gilly explained that the 'shock of recognition' was the realisation of the historical origin of things, for example she had not known that thatching of cottages on the Estate had its origins in Saxon times. She hopes to begin work on a book on the Estate's history.

Gilly was thanked warmly for her stimulating and finely illustrated talk.



