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## INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

### REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

*Orpington and District Archaeological Society.* Mr M.W. Meekums reports:

The Society is currently excavating the medieval and Tudor moated manor house at Scadbury, Chislehurst (N.G.R. TQ 459701). The earliest record shows this site as 'Scadhebir' in 1254. In 1597, Elizabeth I knighted Sir Thomas Walsingham IV at Scadbury. Most of the foundations of the various buildings are still present, and the moat is intact. The timbers of the reconstructed medieval manor hall have been dismantled by the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum and taken to Singleton for preservation. We have been excavating inside the moat wall on the west (drawbridge) side, where large amounts of brick and tile have been recovered as well as much bone and shell, and some pieces of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

In addition to our work at Scadbury, we have carried out a rescue excavation in a back garden in Chelsfield Road, St. Mary Cray, (N.G.R. TQ 473674) after the owner discovered a large amount of Roman pottery and building material while digging holes for his rose garden. The Society dug two trenches adjacent to the holes and recovered further Roman pottery, which included an almost complete mortarium of late second/third-century date. A quantity of roofing- and floor-tile was also recovered, indicating the presence of a building in the immediate vicinity.

A report of a Roman trackway and drainage ditch the Society excavated in 1985 is in course of preparation. This site lies between Wellington Road and Lower Road, St. Mary Cray (N.G.R. TQ 471675).

