

Maidstone Museum

Benjamin Harrison Archive

Volume 21

P.1. Notebook 21, which commences in January 1903.

Copy of a poem entitled 'Burnt Out' by the Rev A Douglas, whose name appears above this poem. Dated April 16th 1848, the poem concerns humble workers with flimsy domestic shelters easily set ablaze. BH has sketched in pencil what such a dwelling might look like.

Original letter from Sir John Evans dated December 20th 1902. In BH's hand is a one line reference to the Westlake papers in which a particular flint is referred to. Evans says in his letter: '... Thanks for the sight of the enclosed though I must own that I cannot see any human work on the flint that is figured. I have myself found Palaeolithic specimens near Fordingbridge – Perhaps you may like to have my Egyptian address – with all good wishes. Yours... John Evans'.

On Sunday 4th January 1903, BH and a friend, IL Temple, went to Ash. They started out at 8.15 and were home at 4pm. They took a route that included Stanstead and Plaxdale Farm. They viewed the water pipe 'in front of Rogers'¹ They lunched at The Swan and arrived home just as it began to rain.

On Sunday January 11th BH noted the great changes in the weather, from rain, sun to a weeks frost. Spent all day sketching. Noted that Wednesday night saw the temperature drop to 18 degrees Fahrenheit.

On Sunday January 18th BH observed that milder temperature prevailed. Worked all day sketching series.

P. 2. A printed page about erratics in the boulder clay of Cheshire. BH has written in the margin of the page 'Displaced flint found in the drift capping of the gault at Park Farm'

A small clipping about Confucious and how he raised the educational level of the Chinese.

Copy of a letter from BH to Sir John Evans, dated January 21st 1903:

'...I wish you and yours a Happy New year and good health to enjoy it.

If I am a bit prolix pray pardon me. It may be necessary to be so to explain all. In 1874 Tyndale gave his Belfast address, the following week a

¹ He means the Roger's home and not a person with the forename Roger. BH's first wife Elizabeth was a member of the Rogers family of Ash

distinguished general came to see fresh from the hall of Sai... and brought me the report from *The Times*. I then read about Lucretius.

Two years or so later an artist was staying in our village. We discussed the matter and I gave him a very old book (Berkley's *Philosophy*) he wanted, and in return he gave me Tyndale's celebrated address, just then issued – with the memorable preface.

It was not my good fortune to see Lucretius until last week when a copy was lent me...

P.3. Continued from the previous page:

... and since then it has been my bed companion for early morning perusal.

This morning I lighted on some pertinent passages, and I rise early to begin this. P 128. The poem book V'.

A few lines of verse follow. BH then comments about the 1902 Belfast meeting of the British Association. Says that, 28 years after the second meeting of this association, he was invited to send some eoliths to complement the exhibits of Mr Knowles. He also refers to his hope that JE would be present so that the authenticity of the 'poor relations' might be proved. As JE did not put in an appearance Boyd Dawkins took up the case...

P.4. Continued from the previous page. BH indicates that he is sending the eolithic exhibits (to JE) for the following reasons:

'In 1892 my "Master" (he means Joseph Prestwich) wrote "You cannot force the position, have faith in time and right and wait the verdict of the majority". Last week I was asked to lend some specimens to be used by way of illustration to a meeting of the important West of England Institution. I intend sending the Belfast specimens but mindly of Lucretius' words I determine that the same should first be seen by yourself. Some most uncharitable things were said of my "Master" – in his dotage "done good work in his time, now undoing it. The worst day's work for Prestwich was the one on which he became acquainted with Harrison" I am fighting on his behalf and remain, Yours respectfully B Harrison'.

P.5. The entry for January 20th 1903 records a fine day with rain threatening which deterred BH from going for a long walk. He did however walk to Fane Hill, Patch Grove and Ives. At the south corner of Patch Grove he found a large flint, figured below, which he began to flake with a pebble before realising it was a 'Fine example of an eolith'.

On Wednesday January 21st BH walked to Buley and Oldbury with Mrs A Jack.

A copy of a verse by Edward Harrison (Ted) using Tennyson's 'Charge of the Light Brigade' as his poetic template. This is continued to page, 7 where it

concludes and is interspersed with other entries. Edward had been seconded to 'Cottonopolis', that is Manchester, and in the poem he describes his train journey there via Oldham and other stations.

P.6. On January 30th 1903, BH walked from Saxby's to Stone pits and from there down to the field to the west. He found some yellow flint on the lower terraces (he could mean chert, of which the yellow variety was common and frequently commented upon in his diaries). He does however write in the margin: 'Flint gravel stone pits. Well bearing Gault, Kemsing'.

He then records that the gault had been pierced to a level of about 40 feet and had just reached the Folkestone beds. He notes that the machinery cutting through the geological formations behaved as if it had met a hard substance. This BH suspected was chert lying on top of the Folkestone beds. Then on to Heaverham where he chatted with Potter .

A geological note follows. FJ Bennett visited with a fossilized lobster claw in chalk found at Burham. Another gentleman, to whom BH spoke, Mr Carmen, produced a (perhaps the) tail, which had been discovered many years before.

P. 7. On Sunday February 1st 1903, Russell Larkby first visited BH. They met at Kemsing and visited St Clere and the Birches. From there they continued to the pit ² where they found some convincing eoliths. From there they visited the Church (Ash) and Russell Larkby pointed out some 'chamfered' features.

In the afternoon BH and Temple went to Oldbury and the evening was spent in his museum.

A sketch of a 'notched tip eo' from Birches, one of those found when he and Russell Larkby were out together, is illustrated below the written account.

P.8. On 2nd February, Russell Larkby wrote BH a letter. He enclosed a copy of an article from Romilly Allen which appeared in *The Reliquary* January 30th 1903:

Dear Sir, I shall have much pleasure in publishing your reply to the review on the BM Stone Age Finds in *The Reliquary*.

I am afraid that when the poor devil who wrote the notice reads your Eolithic counterblast he will report in sack-cloth and ashes or want to go for you with a prehistoric club. In the latter case perhaps I had better not mention your address.

By the way I notice that the slump in eoliths still continues to ?... all experts that they are afraid to show their noses at Steven's Auction Rooms. I am... this letter concludes on p 9 but, for the sake of clarity I will copy it here... buying largely for private meetings in anticipation of the ?... which will take place after the publication of the April Vol of *The Reliquary*. On

² This must refer to one of the many pits that BH excavated in and around Ash in his search for in-situ eoliths

obtaining your your manifest, I shall then be able to unload them with much profit to myself’.

P. 8 continues with reference to a partial copy of Mr Abbott’s letter, which relates to a Geological Society paper by Cunningham, which Mr Kennard referred to as ‘a victory’.

Mr Kennard had been reading one of BH’s notebooks that provided him with a background to the eolithic debate. There is reference to Grant Allen’s article and the date of its first appearance, as well as Bell’s article in *Longman’s Encyclopaedia*. The writer asks if BH is able to name the member of the Council who wrote and said he’d have enjoyed Mr B’s and A’s articles. The writer comments that there is one word he cannot make out (Only one, lucky thing! AM) which looks like ‘unmanly’.

He goes on:

‘However I am glad to have seen it from various other people’s opinions...I am glad I sent you word what I had written Mr C[unnington] as you are able to judge about...

This letter continues over to p. 10 but, for clarity will be completed here:

... it when he talks about my being very impertinent.

There has been some foul play over the whole thing which I will express before I die. It may act as a temporary cloud but we shall emerge all the brighter. You know I wrote Whittaker asking to have some remarks read, but he refused to do so, although at the last meeting he had done the same thing for another fellow (that is read something he had written) because he happened to be a colleague on the survey. But it now transpires that Whitaker is backing Cunningham – well so let him! Only let them do it straight forwardly! Let them raise any question which they want of knowledge my suggest (ion?) the(ir) own expressions of opinion we can get the cleanest sweep we can make of it.

When we get Cunningham’s paper we shall know what points have been raised, so far as I can see it is the old question which I have always regarded as Sir John’s IE, yes he admits certain things found... (on to p.10) as being Man’s but Palaeolithic. Now what you have to do is to prove they are pre-Palaeolithic. What evidence have you –direct or indirect – upon the subject? Because this is the question that I have been trying to work out for six years.’

P. 9. BH makes understanding the entries rather difficult since he seems to be carrying over two entries at a time and placing them on opposing pages, as he has done in previous volumes.

There follow Russell Larkby’s notes about his ‘Sunday visit’:

‘I cannot express one half of the pleasure I derived from the all too short inspection of your magnificent and conclusive collection. If certain “authorities” will not accept them then it is my opinion that the facts of the case will sweep these gentlemen aside. From what I can gather I am very much afraid that purely personal considerations...

This note is concluded on p10 but to preserve the sense will be concluded here:

prevent some authorities from accepting eoliths – the only remedy is an inspection of the flints accumulated by you. Yours very truly. J. Russel Larkby’.

P.10. Wednesday February 4th 1903. Another visit from J Russell Larkby who got the first train to Otford and, using a map, made his own way to Birches, where he ‘made many finds of eoliths, some, very convincing Thenayites’.

Later that day he and Ben walked to Basted and found *Ruscus aculatus*³ blooming. This was new to Larkby though presumably the early celandines, which he intended taking to a meeting of the Bromley Naturalists Society, were not.

There follows a copy of the remarks of the Rev Bullen on Flints:

‘Sir John’s remark reads “The perforated flint has no bulb of percussion, it is not worked (taille cut) it is broken (coarse] fractured by natural forces)”.

My friend Bais... who was there described the collection of flints as very doubtful as to their human use or workmanship. Either Thieullen’s figures didn’t do him justice, or else he goes by mere form which is deceptive. We must demand different flaking or chipping upon natural curves, we cannot accept mere form as Evans hallmark: but the bulb will have to go’.

P.11. Dated February 4th 1903, a pen and ink sketch of what BH calls a ‘Huge stand and instrument found by Mr Barry in Charing church. What would now be called a megaphone used by the Parish Clerk in giving out relics’.

January rainfall 1903, 2.55 [inches] obtained from the *Kent Messenger*.

A copy of a letter from Bell, dated December 22nd 1902:

‘Also I should add that you have lately been dwelling on an Eolithic period, and at the same time progressing on humans to Prestwich’s conclusions.

³ Otherwise known as a Butcher’s Broom [, an interesting plant since it has no leaves rather flattened stems to serve the same biological function as leaves in other plants. – I WONDER WHETHER THIS OBSERVATION IS NECESSARY?]

Prestwich distinctly said that you had no evidence of an Eolithic period. The eoliths were not distinguishable from the worked implements found with them .

Deep in the pit on the height of the Downs you obtained a true implement. I thought that evidence that your area you and Prestwich are right. He was certainly right in my area here, where eoliths are found in one or two Palaeolithic or implement stages.

In the New Forest area apparently no formed implement has been found. Who can say some will be?

There follows part of a letter by Kennard which continues to page 13, and which will be copied in full here:

‘... Now as to Bell’s views I disagree in toto. There must have been an Eolithic period when man did not know how to flake at all.

It is true the eoliths covered a very large period, as one can trace gradations in their work. 1st, the true eos – the group you call Maplescombe and then the hill group and then high level 100ft and then the other stage.

The true Eolithic period was when no knowledge of flaking (ie large flaking) was known but when the folk had to find suitable flints for their imp[lemen]ts, and then trimmed them a little, and use them. Then came the transformation, when they learnt how to flake but still used Eolithic work on the edges of the flakes.

I have numerous examples of these from West Wickham, and a more convincing series.

... I went over the whole of my series with Johnson and he was delighted with them, there was a true pale flake but on the edge was of true Eo character – there were also Eos but obviously of the same period by the staining, also Eos obviously derived from an older bed, then we had a good look at beach pebbles, and then the difference was at once seen that beach flints are varnished all along the edge and on the surface, whilst on the Eos the work is only where it should be.

No, I must differ from Bell, there was an Eolithic period, and we must not make a Pope of any man even Sir Joseph Prestwich, and that what he says as ex cathedra. In fact no one would have objected more than Sir J Prestwich himself.

I have not seen Bullen’s paper, it is not yet ready but it deals with the West of England finds’. [Concludes on the right hand side of p 13]

P.12. Drawing of a serpent, shown to BH by the Rev Barry of Yalding church.

P. 13. February 8th 1903. Two pals from the north west end of Dicky May's Hop Garden.

P.14. Sunday February 8th 1903. Dull morning, stiff gale. Despite not feeling fit for work BH set out at 9am for Dicky May's where, at the north west end he found two pals [those illustrated on the previous page].

Monday February 9th 1903. The sun broke through the clouds! BH felt fit for a spot of gardening. Notes violets, squills, primroses, hellebore and winter aconite 'all bursting into bloom, not forgetting the catkins on the nuts'.

Two newspaper clippings, one on an art catalogue and one about Kentish Rag and some of the fossils to be found in it.

P. 15. A copy of a letter from Sir John Evans, dated January 23rd 1903:

'I am preparing to leave England for two or three months, and every moment is occupied. I have however looked through your specimens, and have been able more or less, to read your letter.

The result is that I still remain of the opinion that the bulk of so-called Eoliths present no signs of intelligent workmanship more of such chipping such as could be effected by natural agents: and that in the rare cases when they are really worked – as for instance the implement from Aylesford, they are indistinguishable from implements of Palaeolithic age.

Thanks for your good wishes which I reciprocate. In haste, Yours very faithfully, John Evans'.

Remarks by Kennard on J. Russell Larkby:

'I know Russell Larkby. He is a young un, one of the younger school who is finding eos in this neighbourhood. I think he will become a good man in time. He is a good archaeologist, especially with reference to churches and is a frequent contributor to the Antiquary.

I have returned the poem which I enjoyed very much. I must try and meet Scott Temple one of these days when the leaves are coming out and the cowslip is in bloom on the chalk downs. I must have another trip to your El Dorado where the gold is useless, except to those with brains'.

P.16. Original letter from George Harding, a bookseller. Dated January 5th 1903.

Sunday January 25th 1903. BH arose at 7.30 on a very dull day and wrote to Evans and Russell Larkby about the reply to the review in *The Reliquary*.

Between 10.30 and 1.30 BH spent time at Manor Farm and Styants Bottom field re: some finds. He spent the evening replying to Ted's list of ?... He wrote a poem of some recollections of sixty years ago.

P.17. Conclusion of the poem from the previous page, 9all of which is copied on this page) entitled 'Sixty Years Ago-'. Which goes.

'It was only a simple query
Put by a curious son
Just tell me all you know dad
Of things so long since done
In Ightham in the olden days
Of sixty years ago

It was only a faded memory
The old dad worked upon
But still he did his level best
To satisfy his son
And got down all the notebooks
Of sixty years ago

For faint indeed they must appear
Yet on some points my memory's clear
But the e... large for sixty years'

Copy of a letter from Rutot to Percy Martin 23rd January 1903:

'My Dear Mr. Martin, Please excuse my not having seen and answered your letter. I am only just recovering from a severe attack of influenza from which I have been suffering for the last fortnight, and my first thought is to write to you.

Mr. Harrison has not written to me about his researches in Chalk Plateau Drift, but I am very glad to hear about them from you and...

P.18. Continued from the previous page:

... the good results interest me greatly.

You know that I have long ago given up my idea that the Chalk Plateau flints would be Mesvinian.

I believe that because Sir J Prestwich said they were on the drift, since you and Mr Harrison have shown me that they are in the drift the question is quite changed, and I am of the your opinion that the flints are very ancient, and probably Middle Pliocene.

It is therefore a settled matter. Mr L Abbott of St Leonards on Sea has sent his flints of the Crown Frost bed to examine. I recognise them as thoroughly good eoliths which resemble those from the chalk plateau.

I am at this moment preparing small collections of prehistoric implements for several institutions in Brussels. I am very desirous that Eoliths of the Kent Plateau should be represented in these collections.

If you and Mr. Kennard have a few more specimens of which you could dispose I should be made... (continued and concluded on p.19 but included here) happy if you could send me some; I will make good use of them. In return I would find you a few good specimens of the transition of Mesvinian to the Chellean and of Chellean of Belgium. A. Rutot'. (last paragraph on p 19)

A copy of part of White's *Natural History of Selbourne*. Letters 5 and 7 and copied into BH's notebook in 1888.

P.19. Ted writes a note, copied by BH, about love letters to Bertha Fremlin.⁴ in one of BH's old note books, her name inadequately encrypted by BH by the transposition of letters.

A copy of verses from the Bible: 2 Kings, chapter 5 verse 8.

A copy of some remarks by Darbishire on Haworth's paper. 'Just got Sir H Hawarth's paper. Just like him: amassing no end of facts, scraps, without any real intelligence. "He knows more things incorrectly than any man I know" said a friend'.

P.20. A poem, possibly by Edward Harrison about encrypted love letters from his father's notebook.

A short entry on Hugh Miller who wrote *My School and Schoolmasters*. BH says he was 'deeply grieved to hear of his death'. Dated January 14th 1902.

Copy of a letter from Louisa Hammond of Hythe with the inclusion of a book that she thought she was among the party of ladies who visited him to see his collection the previous summer. BH says he took the book to bed and read it eagerly but turned pale at the thought of having trusted Ted with the cryptogram [described above]. Dated February 13th 1903.

P.20. (another page numbered 20). Loveland and Whitehead to tea, a laugh and a chat about old times. BH says he persuaded them to go to Selbourne.

A poem about Ted and how he teased BH about the love letter.

A few lines on the 'theorist', somewhat cynical, and is about Sir John Evans and 'truth', by which BH means Evans' failure to acknowledge eoliths as 'true' artefacts .

A few lines from Henry Walker, dated 1897, about being a public trustee of the 'summit levels'. This refers to BH's eolith finds and the summit of the North

⁴ Possibly a member of the Fremlin family, noted Kent brewers from Faversham who, to this day lay claim to the title of the operators of the country's oldest brewery

Downs and his continued support of these stones as the earliest human artefacts found in, what is now, Kent.

Below this is a sketch of the summit of Bluebell Hill and Kit's Coty, that is described as 'Baal-like'.

P.21. Copy of a letter to Scott Temple, from the Editor of *The Reliquary*:

'...I have received a letter from you in which you give the lie direct to the author of the British Museum "Stone Age Finds". Instead of quoting actual instances when eoliths have changed hands for what the *Sporting Times* calls 'ruddy gold', you drag in poor old Victor Hugo into the controversy.

If you can let me know the market quotation per ton of eoliths at the present time, say how much you are prepared to give for them it would be for ? to the p...?

I really have not the slightest sympathy with the Eolithic cranks and if I can suppress them once for all I should be doing public service.

I shall be hoping to publish your views in *The Reliquary* as I suppose that even the wildest things deserve sifted in case they should contain a grain of truth'.

There follows an account of Beltane (1st May) and the current celebration of this ancient festival, in Scotland. The account suggests that the roots of this festival can be found in the worship of Baal. It concludes on p22, with reference to Astarte or Ishtar as she was known in Nineveh, and reference to Easter.

P.22. Sunday February 15th 1903. Despite it being a wet day BH gardened. He received a visit from Percy, from West Malling and Russell Larkby, who picked up specimens from a waste heap for Rutot. Out for a ride to Nepicar and Wrotham but the fog prevented them from seeing much. BH described the day as 'Disappointing'.

Saturday February 21st 1903. FJ Bennett visited. His paper on eoliths at Belfast and Bloomsbury had been revised by Rupert Jones.

Sunday February 22nd 1903. Dull morning. BH saw Mr. Freeman at Kemsing station but as the day was 'nasty' he stayed in and sorted through Bell's letters.

A few comments of John Evans negative views on Eoliths, as recorded by Mr. Darbishire, dated July 4th 1900. More comments about JE as recorded by Darbishire, dated July 20th 1900.

P.23. Thursday February 26th 1903. BH caught the 10.10 train to Malling. Mentions a severe gale that had resulted in devastation in the midlands with churches blown down and trains blown over. He Inspected Malling Church and then walked home via Offham.

Sketch of part of a window in church which captured BH's imagination.

More comments from Darbishire, not dated. Once again with reference to Sir John Evans and his 'Wonderful collection of stone implements'. Again there is reference to JE's clear views on the natural nature of Eoliths.

Copy of a letter from Rupert Jones on Tom Harrison's papers, dated November 23rd 1897. '... I fully and cordially appreciate your very kind letter of the 22nd reminding me of old times and natural interest in the Australian fossils and your work at Melbourne. Accept my sympathy in your melancholy loss and family trouble'⁵

P.24. Sunday March 1st 1903. BH out searching on High Field and found an eolith, sketched below.

Comments on the work of Thomas Harrison on the geology of Hobart published in the *Geological Magazine* Vol 1 1865. Notes that the first paper on Melbourne was in 1864. In *The Geologists* pp 27 – 34 and a report on the Silurian fossils p.30 in particular.

A comment on J. Evans by Sir John Lubbock, dated 24th July 1900: 'I do not think that Sir John Evans doubts all your specimens; what I understand is that he doubts a special Eolithic type'.

A line by Bell on Darbishire.

Quote from Johnson, intended to show how wrong Sir John Evans was in his dismissal of eoliths as artefacts

P.25. A pen and ink sketch of a palaeolith from Seven Acres March 4th 1903, given to Mr Bennett. An account of this find by 'young Malyan' who was sent out to search after a lot of rain.

List of the churches visited by J. Russell Larkby.

A beautifully executed drawing of the sections of the Ightham Valley by Willie Tomkin. X marks the find spots of Palaeolithic implement finds.

P.26. FJ Bennett visited March 4th 1903. BH notes that his paper has been published in the *Geological Magazine*, which also contains Mr Bullen's paper on the Eoliths from Hampshire. It also contains part of Stopes' obituary.

Two newspaper clippings: one a poem by Scott Temple entitled 'Democracy' and another about the theories of the beginnings of life resulting from scientific studies in the aftermath of this explosion.

⁵ This remark about Loss and a mutual interest in Australian fossils is about the death of Thomas Harrison, BH's eldest brother who emigrated to Australia in 1852 and settled in Melbourne where he, and Julian Tennison, founded the Melbourne Geological Society. Thomas went on to publish his work on the Silurian fossils of Tasmania and other geological investigations

An account of an affray at Ightham and an original letter from Mr Frampton of St. Mary's Platt, dated December 1st 1879 about this affray.

P. 27. An entry and newspaper clippings re: the Elizabethan West Malling Jug.

An original letter, in English, from Rutot, dated 21st December 1899. In it he discusses the chronology of eolith-bearing deposits and the relationships of mammalian fauna and human occupation of Britain. He states unequivocally, that the plateau eoliths are equivalent to the Belgian Mesvinian. Promises to send BH some 'good specimens'.

P.28. Newspaper clippings of the West Malling Stoup (jug) sold by Christie's.

February 8th 1902. Some comments by Bell suggesting the possibility that eoliths and paleoliths may be found in the same spots. He cites a passage from Grant Allen's *Big Birds* as influencing these conclusions.

P.29. An original letter from F.J. Bennett, which quotes Henry Woodward [not dated but probably sometime in 1903] on the subject of FJ Bennett's paper, upon which Rupert Jones also commented. Discusses the views of Evans, Lubbock, De Perthes, Woodward, Jones and Prestwich on eoliths. The gist of the letter is that Sir John Evans is in the minority with the others accepting them as early artefacts.

An original letter from Oswald Evans, of the London Institution, dated February 12th 1903 in which he includes a *Chronicle*, 12th December 1903, clipping about a group of people from a Spanish Island of Fernando Po, on the Niger coast, known as 'The Boobies'. These people are deemed to be filthy and unwashed using stone implements to remove some of the dirt. This is the reason it was sent to BH, as it was realised by the writer that the implements used might resemble the eolithic crescent scraper.

P.30. Sunday March 8th 1903. A visit to Crowslands where some very impressive eoliths, some of which are sketched below, were found. These eoliths were intended for Rupert Jones.

On the 11th March 1903, BH went to High Field where he again found eoliths, which he has sketched.

A quote from p 359 of *Prehistoric Times*. It is about the great antiquity of the human occupation of the Somme (and Darent).

P.31. Sunday March 15th 1903 saw BH make a trip to High Field with Jack, who was on a week's visit, where they found an eolith which BH has sketched and a neolithic celt, which he not. They noted a scatter of chert.

More quotes from *Prehistoric Times*, pp 323 and 329. Both mention BH and the high drift of the Plateau. Also quotes from Whittaker's 1900 Presidential address

on the Antiquity of Man. BH Notes the abundance of interesting correspondence on this topic in the lately published life of Joseph Prestwich.

P. 32. A sketch of a palaeolith from Broomsleigh, dated March 14th 1903.

Reproduces a passage from Palgrave's 1870 writing. It concerns Ightham, described as 'A pretty little place'.

BH notes his acquisitions of the 14/15th March of 1 palaeolith and many eoliths, from Birches 1 neolithic celt from Rosewood and an arrow head from Thinnington's land and a celt found on the day of writing.

A thought from Whittaker, who notes that many would find research into prehistory pointless.

A copy of a letter from A Smith Woodward from the British Museum of Natural History, dated July 31st 1900: '... Many thanks for 10 British Association flints safely received this morning. They will be officially acknowledged later. As soon as I see Professor Parkland again I will find him your paper and ask him to return it. I thank you very much for the photograph which I shall treasure among my mementos. Professor Parkland was delighted with his visit on Thursday – so was I, we enjoyed it hugely. With Kind regards...'

P.33. In Hubert Reade's handwriting, an account of megalithic monuments in Brittany. In pencil a few enigmatic words about rock shelters in France, Bushmen and Western Dervishes.

Original letter from Lord Avebury dated 19th March 1903. Says he will think over Mr Reade's ingenious suggestion and regrets that he is too busy to visit at present.

An extract from the Geological quarterly Meeting address, dated May 1900 at which Whittaker announces the death of Grace Ann Prestwich aged 66 on August 31st 1899.

P. 34. A pen and ink sketch of figure stones sent to BH by Newton. Asks for it to be returned and also apologises because he can't get to the pit to help BH excavate. The figure sketched is dog-like.

Copy of a letter from Agnes from Bromley, dated Saturday July 28th [1903]. She tells the family that she has passed her exam with honours, the only one to obtain honours, she is one of five women to pass and, she notes, many must have failed as there were many people present at the examination.

A quote re: science and facts . The journal title is illegible.

A short note from Newton dated July 21st 1903, to say that he is off to the British Museum to see the 'Plateauliths'.

P.35. Copy of a letter from Hubert Reade dated March 18th 1903:

‘... I return the paper about eoliths with many thanks. I have written to Mr Read of the British Museum about the Rock Shelters, stating the cave reminded me of those of Faninas under the earliest Rome on the Palatine of Pan? Under the Acropolis of Athens and of others with connections with the citadels on Etruscan sites, which oddly enough later on, were often used for sacred purposes.

I have also written an article about our walk, which I sent to the Westminster Gazette, and will forward to you if they publish it. Thanks for all your kindness. I feel sure you will be glad to hear my Mother is better and that my other trouble will blow over. Your kindly sympathy I shall not soon forget, and truly the old stones have proved a pan... as you predicted.

Pray remember me kindly to Mrs Harrison’.

Letter to BH from Rupert Jones, dated February 7th 1903:

‘It will give me great pleasure to help you soon to get the books you refer to.

I expect the papers are in one or more of the volumes of the *Geologist* and the *Geological Magazine*.

I have been looking through the indexes of some vols but without success. Give me the date of the paper or papers and I will aid you and if you will give me his address I will lend them to him gladly. Or he can call home for them if he pleases, or will give him a letter to my son in the Library of the Geological Society at Burlington House.

I am greatly pleased with your son’s practical treatment of the eolithic affair and am glad to possess the printed copy.

Please to tell him so. I had not seen the *Reliquary* which you kindly sent’.

P.36. Conclusion of the Hubert Reade letter from p 35.

An account of the Iron Age Hill Fort on Oldbury, always referred to as the ‘camp’ and which is compared to the Chateau Gaillard in Normandy built by King John I in 1240.

Below this is a sketch of a double curved eolith.

Three original letter from Hubert Reade and all dated on or around March 20th 1892. In the first Reade thanks BH for his offer a guided trip around Oldbury. Refers to his paper published in the *Westminster Gazette*. The second mentions Mr Read [of the British Museum] whose workload prevented a visit to see Oldbury Camp at that time] and the third as copied above.

Loose scrap of paper with a letter from Rupert Jones of 17 ?Parson's Green Fulham. It concerns A Thieullen's work on Belgian Eoliths.

Printed letter from Clement H Read, British Museum, dated 19th March 1903. He refers to a visit from Hubert Reade whom, he noted, was interested in the rock shelters.

Copy of a letter from Rupert Jones on the *Reliquary* article, not dated. He berates BH's critics calling them 'flippant and behind-hand – and rather ill natured too'. Rupert refers to his rheumatism and 'old age ailments' which he says interfere with his writing.

Copy of part of a letter from Mr WS Freeman, dated February 23rd 1903 who informs BH of the amount of water overflowing from his well. It amounts to around 86,400 gallons a day.

P.37. Sunday March 22nd 1903. Out walking despite dull weather. BH found two eoliths in Bay Shaw, drawn below.

More from Freeman on the water supply, dated February 23rd 1903.

Note from Mr Whitaker dated February 24th 1903 thanking BH for the information on the Kemsing boring. Asks if the Hythe beds have been reached. Tells BH about his trip to Malvern and on his having reached the highest point, despite the wind, which, on his descent, developed into a small whirlwind.

P.38. Copy of a letter from Romilly Allen dated March 21st 1903:

'... I have received your reply to Mr L... 's? remarks on your ?Hayling paper and it would have gone into the present number of *The Reliquary* had it not been crowded out by the portentous amount of balderdash which the plateaunomics cranks have written about what they are pleased to call "eoliths". The archaeological Campbell Bannerman's of the British Museum don't now whether to believe in eoliths or not and are simply waiting for a convenient opportunity to climb down on one side of the fence or the other'.

Sketch of a celt found in Tebb's land. This is near, or in the area of Rosewood.

P.39. A section of Oldbury Hill in relation to the chalk escarpment. This section is repeated in the Harrison archive at the British Museum. X marks the site of BH's Middle Palaeolithic finds. The excavation was reported on at the 1891 meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, following some introductory remarks by Sir Joseph Prestwich.

P.40. Wednesday March 25th 1903. Temperature reached 67 degrees despite its being only March. Mrs H and Mrs Thompson had a delightful drive to Knockholt. BH spent his time sorting out some six sets [probably to sell]. He had visitors from Tonbridge Grammar School at 4.30, a master and some of his

pupils. The visitors left some 'spoil', some of which was from America, for BH to arrange and sketch.

Sunday March 29th 1903. After some time sketching BH set out on what he describes as a 'very fine day' for Robsacks where he met Russell Larkby for tea after which they made for Mount Pleasant, the woods, Eynesford, Maplescombe and Crowslands.

Original letter from Larkby, undated, on the subject of Maplescombe Church. He notes in particular the sarsen stone there. He sketches our courses of flints in the wall of the church which, he suggests, is a typically Norman arrangement and which can also be seen in Gundolph's tower in Malling [West]. He notes that it is not a Saxon feature. He mentions his intention of spending a whole day there.

An entry entitled Druery on continuity series:

'On looking through the stones the simple fact that the bulk of them have a plain natural face while all the work is located on the other side in the form of innumerable chippings or flakings at more or less the same angle, is a convincing proof to me that it was done with purpose; ie that it is human, especially when this purpose finds expression in definite converse curves which afford scraping facilities either for bones or flesh.

It is a pity you could not force BD [probably Boyd Dawkins] to match your specimens from his cartloads of clay finds.

Is your evidence of his pronouncements in a form which you could quote and couple with such a challenge? Couldn't you through some of your friends in this particular line cite the history of the matter in some influential publication as one of the many cases in which...

P.41. Continues from previous page:

... cold water is thrown upon your many years of labour in collecting proof, which so-called scientific men refuse to examine and yet have cheek enough to pooh, pooh!

Mr. Newman in passing by struck at ?... – result a deal of barking, he continued to strike when his pup (Wilkins dog) caught hold of his garters and it was amusing to watch him carefully examining his understanding garments' [This is an ironic piece, which probably makes less sense to current readers than it did to those of its time]

There follows a poem, on the theme of Wilkins black dog, it is loosely based on Tennyson's 'Charge of the Light Brigade': This poem, and the event that it memorialised, must have had enormous impact on the popular imagination for it is the second time in this volume alone in which it is taken as the template for an entry.

Black dog in front of him

Barking and yelling
 Black dog in rear of him
 Fiercely attacking
 His then to wield the stick
 His then to meet the foe
 Struck he out right and left
 Forward and backward go.
 Bit the dog ?... ?...
 Bit at and tried to tear
 Gaiters tight fitting –
 So then he viewed the same
 Found the dog bite was in vain
 For gaiters were just the same
 As when they began the game
 Of barking and hitting-

A sketch of an eolith from Robsacks, dated March 29th 1903 and another, a copy of the Stafford Arms from the George and Dragon at Ightham.

P.42. A newspaper clipping from the Bromley Chronicle dated 17th March 1903, which outlined a lecture entitled 'Man's Antiquity' by J Russell Larkby to the Bromley Naturalists Society. In this paper are a number of interesting observations. For example, he uses Brazilian agates with what he terms 'imperfect bulbs' to illustrate that a conchoidal fracture is not the sole preserve of human agency but may result from several natural processes.⁶

P.43. Two newspaper clippings, one an obituary notice for Mrs Fertel and the second about a meeting of the English Church Union at which the Honorary Secretary, Mr Russell Larkby, gave a lecture entitled 'Ecclesiastical Architecture'.

There follows an entry, partly in poetic form, on Ightham and the restoration of the Old Sun. The George and Dragon is also given a mention and its proposed demolition is commented upon.

P.44. An interesting newspaper clipping recounting the lecture given by the then Curator of Maidstone Museum, Mr Allchin, on Kent and its history. Benjamin Harrison is mentioned and his eoliths theory noted. Lord Avebury, whose researches into prehistory were well known, is also mentioned. The main thrust of the lecture however was aimed at William Caxton, a most famous son of Kent.

The account from p.43 on the Old Sun, continues. This BH has copied from the newspaper clippings.

P.45. Another strip of the newspaper clipping, started on the previous page, about Kent and its history.

⁶ There are a number of agates in BH's collection at Maidstone Museum and this observation may help explain their presence

Another clipping, from the *Kent Messenger* dated April 14th 1902. This outlines the rainfall in Ightham, gives an account of happenings in the vestry, as recorded at the annual vestry meeting. It also details the restoration of an old inn (the George and Dragon).

The copy of the newspaper article from the previous page concludes.

P.46. Sunday April 5th 1903. Despite the very cold wind BH walked to High Field and found two eoliths and a white palaeolith, which he has sketched. Says that he is not very well and is 'pinched by the cold'.

A note about a tortoiseshell butterfly seen on April 3rd 1903, in Selby's big field.

There follows a copy of some observations on Well Hill, made in a letter to BH by Russell Larkby, dated 31st March 1903

'... Since my visit to you early in February and our very pleasant excursion on the North Downs, I have been working the Well Hill district for eoliths. As you are so keenly interested in Well Hill I think some extracts from my note books may be of some little use.

In my paper recently before the Bromley Naturalists Society [detailed in the newspaper clipping on p 42] from I gave a very detailed description of the hill but unfortunately this fact was not reported so fully as its importance demanded.

I say unfortunately because the summit of Well Hill has very great interest in being the last remnant of the ancient landscape of the immediate vicinity. The hill as you well know rises as a large cone on one side a slope into the Darent valley, and on the other sloping gently away to the lower land of Green St Green...

P.47. Continues from the previous page... At the base of Well Hill especially on the Green St Green side I have found some considerable evidence of Palaeolithic Man. Between Lord Darby's pit and those at Green St Green I have obtained some 150 drift implements of a roughly worked type. Even these small dry valley's scouring the side of Well Hill must be of great antiquity as at Green St Green the drift attains a considerable depth and rests directly on the chalk thus shewing the energy of the stream in removing the intervening Tertiary beds.

But to return to Well Hill. At the summit (600ft) I have obtained Eoliths of which I send washed drawings. They are of the usual type associated with the Plateau drift. The work although slight is undeniable.

At Well Hill the work of nature is obvious in the large bruised and shapeless masses of flints washed down in the process of denudation. The worked eoliths are not found in any profusion... .

The butterfly notes from the previous page continues and BH records Good Friday, on 10th April that year, as a fine, spring-like day which lured him out to High Field and Fane Hill for a walk and later saw him and Mrs Harrison off for a trip to Ash later that day.

P.48. Newspaper clipping about walking in Kent. It details the countryside, buildings of significance and smaller settlements around Ightham.

The Well Hill entry from the previous two pages continues:

‘... owing I suppose to the position of the hill. Although I have found Neoliths broken and disks (as sketched sheet 4) there is an utter absence of Palaeolithic types.

It cannot be denied that there is a great gulf fixed between sheets 1,2,3 and sheet 4. And that gulf is, to the best of my belief, the implements of Palaeolithic man.

I do not say that Palaeoliths cannot be found there – if they exist I have missed them: At the same time I have confidence in my accuracy. I might be suggested that after the Eolithic time the land not forming Well Hill became unsuitable for human habitation and was not again occupied until later Palaeolithic times when such implements are found in the valley gravels.

If the hill was inhabited in Palaeolithic times, surely we may ask for even a few implements in situ on its summit the more so when it is possible to find Eoliths at the highest point which from their age...

P.49. Continued from previous page:

... even now return to the original place of their deposition.

A short time ago I found Tertiary fossils on the summit of the hill (*Melanuca* in quartzite and *Cyrena cunifurnis*) of which I saw specimens. These I have also obtained at Orpington Station and thus have some ?... of the once continuous character of the bed from that part of the hill.

But between Well Hill and Orpington there is practically nothing left but the chalk capped by a very superficial deposit full of flints.

If I have read the features aright this means must be reflected to an age anterior to this great denudation of Tertiary deposits. It is important to examine the Eolithic flints at Well Hill without connecting them with the flints found on the North Downs. Truly the late Sir Joseph Prestwich said that the process of denudation marks time as effectively as constitution.

On the following diagram I have outlined the various...’ Continues on following page.

Concluding paragraphs of the newspaper clipping commenced on the preceding page. Author, Arthur Henry.

Easter Sunday and Monday, the 12/13th April 1903, see BH sketching and putting to rights his 'spoil'. On Easter Monday he walked to High Field, Shoreham, Dunstall and Maplescombe. Ted, Agnes and Jack accompanied him.

P.50. Section of Well Hill and its slope with zones of flints as they occurred there.

The narrative of Larkby continues from the previous page:

... It is obvious that if at Well Hill Palaeolithic types succeed Eoliths in the usual sequences we ought to find Pale implements on the summit at same distance down the slope – as I have said I have been entirely unsuccessful in finding anything between Eolithic and Neolithic types.

It is this isolation of the earlier forms which to my mind helps to prove the Eolithic period as totally separated from man of the valley finds. It cannot be argued that the Paleolithic flints have been removed to the valley gravels as in that case he ought to find the ochreous...

P.51. Continued from the previous page:

... implements too as derivative. The sequence at Well Hill stands thus:

1. Eolithic implements
2. Neoliths

But at Maplescombe the sequence is representative including what may be called either late Eoliths or very early Palaeoliths.

At Well Hill I have found four types in Eolithic implements of which only the hollow scraper is rare in the valley gravels. None of the Eolithic implements at Well Hill show the bulb but those of the 150 from the valley only three show anything approaching the characteristic fracture.

If the bulb is necessary to show human handiwork in eoliths is it not more necessary for the Palaeoliths when man had so far advanced that a naturally split slab of flint no longer served the greater call for specialized implements. It seems to me the weakest of arguments is to reject a flint because no use can...

P.52. Continued from the previous page:

... be assigned to it. It is because we cannot assign any definitive use to many Neoliths that they are placed under the very comprehensive term "scrapers".

I return the papers you so kindly sent me and have made full use of them. I also have to acknowledge receipt of *Reliquae Aquit* and *Man and the Glacial Period* for which I am much obliged.

Enclosed you will find, Bent's *Ruined Cities* which please keep and also the *Insidercompletum Brittannanum* which I know will amuse you. With kind regards, believe me, Yours very truly, Russell Larkby'.

Copy of a letter from Lord Avebury dated 5th April 1903: '... I return Mr. Larkby's letter which I have read with much interest. If the Bromley Society does not publish his notes on Well Hill I hope he will have some opportunity of doing so. I have known it for more than 50 years when I first visited it with Lyell and Prestwich. It is most interesting. Yours Truly, Avebury'

P.53/54/55 Original letter from Dr Phene An accent over the final e suggests the correspondent may be French or Belgian. Dated 4th April 1903 and from 5 Carlton Terrace, Oakley Street, London SW. The writer notes that he last saw BH 50 years ago.

A printed paper on the co-existence of civilizations in many parts of the ancient world, including ancient Britain. March 1903 by Dr Phene

P.56. The Stafford Knot From the *Handbook of Heraldry* p 132. BH has sketched the knot

P.57. April 8th 1903. Entry headed 'Kennard'. An outing involving Kennard, Professor Boulger And JV Holmes. BH lists 5 stages of lithics evolution to these persons.

1. Eoliths
2. High group (older pals)
3. High terrace (pals)
4. Middle Terrace (type of Mousterian)
5. Cave implements ie Rock shelters.

'I showed that each of these is related to a definite stage of gravels, see diagram. No one challenged me at all and I didn't care if they had.'

The diagram of a section through the Downs and the Thames is shown.

P.58. Kennard continues with another list:

- A Plateau and Eoliths
- B Hill group and older pals
- C High Terrace pals
- D Middle Terrace and Mousterian type
- E Third Terrace
- F Buried channel

Shewing former elevation to at least 100ft.

‘We have no implements from the 3rd terrace and nothing is known about any from the buried channel except neoliths. It is between E and F that we want implements and then we shall have a complete series as can be shown nowhere else in this country. The Rockshelter group probably are but whether to E or F is uncertain. It must always be remembered that gravel will contain not only implements contemporary with the deposition but also implements derived belonging to all the previous periods’.

P. 59. Original memo from Lewis Abbott, from his address in St Leonards-on-Sea,⁷ dated 15th April 1903:

‘ Dear Sir, I did not get the *Reliquary* although I put it on order. I think you said the Editor went against the reviewer and said “poor devil from Limpsfield ?...” well, if he told you that, it is only another instance of what a liar he is! Having seen this months *Reliquary* and his lying ?... at the bottom of the page ... has forced up a splendid quotation to fill his case, but ?... it is quite lost. Boyd Dawkins pronounces the last final ?... on the eoliths in this months Ma. I feel constrained to go for him altho’ my time is safely occupied. I also feel I should like to go for Romilly Allen, therefore I should be glad if you could contribute or qualify more remarks about what he said about the reviewer’.⁸

Original letter from Worthington Smith, in which he writes in his usual acerbic and amusing way:

‘...I write to say that I have seen the stones, diary and paper. I have read the latter. I will return all directly. I don’t care what anybody says about me. I have it pretty stiff here at election times. A town councillor once said that I was the damndest liar in Bedfordshire and that I ought to be kicked out of the county as a Jesuit in disguise and that the first time he caught me alone he would cut my throat, and so on ad lib. I am not a member of the British Association and have never attended any of the meetings, so I only see the reports in the *Athenaeum* and in *Nature*, often highly condensed. Eoliths seem to me quite political; with two schools; Ultra Radical and Ultra Tories, or church and chapel with damnation to outsiders – I don’t intend to join in...’. Dated 15th April 1904.

P.60. Copy of a letter from Lord Avebury to JR Larkby, dated 27th April 1903:

‘I read your paper on Well Hill, which Mr Harrison sent me, with much interest. When it is printed I hope you will send me a copy. As regards the Musk Ox, I have found two fragments of skull; one at Taplow the other from Green St Green.

⁷ 8 Grand Parade St, St Leonards-on-Sea ‘Art Jeweler, Gem Importer & Watchmaker’

⁸ Romilly Allen also edited *The Cornhill Magazine* for some time.

One is at the Natural History Museum the other at the College of Surgeons. It was a long time, and I am not quite sure, but my strong impression is that the Green St Green specimen is at the Natural History Museum. Mammoth and Rhinoceros have also come from there...'

Copy of a letter to a Miss Ruckner of 4 Vanburgh Terrace, Blackheath, not dated. It does not appear to be a letter from BH since it refers to him. [Miss Ruckner may have been on an outing to Ightham with which BH is likely to have been involved.] She enquires as to whether a 'curious ridge at Ightham' is likely to have been in the vicinity of the rock shelters since she mentions Oldbury and the British and Roman camps there. The letter continues to p 61 where the writer also refers to 'folklorists' and the earlier inhabitants of the area in a less than flattering tone, which suggests that she was sceptical about ideas of human antiquity in the Ightham, and perhaps other parts of Britain. She also talks of a maze, for which she suggests the camp would be a likely site.

P.61. A two-line note about a book that Mr Lewis Abbott had returned.

Sunday May 24th being a fine day on which BH arose at 5am and worked on the 'Knole plate' for Mr Darbishire. An evening walk to Fane hill with no lithic finds.

Friday May 29th was a very hot day, 73 in the shade. BH was covered in a mantle of flies. By 4.30 a storm was raging that caused some fatalities in Croydon. An inch of rain fell in twenty minutes.

On the 30th there was another storm with vivid lightning.

P. Unnumbered. Sunday May 31st, Whit Sunday, a wonderfully clear day. Ted and Agnes home. BH wrote and gardened from 10.30 to 12 after which all three made for High Birches and Plaxtol where they met Mrs Collins. Talk of various domestic arrangements with neighbours for 'fire bark'. BH describes the current Mr Naxy as: '... a Pharaoh who knows not Joseph' but states that old Mr Naxy was a good man. They called in on Mrs Thomas for a chat. BH then discusses possible connections between serpent worship and the older mazes. Asks if any traces of mazes have been found locally or if any place names might suggest one once existed there. Asks if he could be informed if any excavations are to take place.

P.62. Whit Sunday 1st June 1903. A cloudless day that saw BH writing from 6.30 to 8.30. Together with Larkby, Bennett and Mr Roberts from Bromley, he started walking at 10 towards Terry's Lodge pit. Ted and Agnes were also present on this little jaunt. Photos were taken and they were joined by Mrs Harrison at 2.30 who made the journey in the trap. Home by 4.30 and had an '...enjoyable and profitable day. Abundance of evidence of Eolithic men but none of palaeoliths'.

Tuesday 2nd June 1903. A cold day, a gale at times.

Friday June 5th 1903. Mr Walker informed BH of an earthquake at 10.30 the previous night and again at 1am in the morning. BH writes this in big, bold underlined capitals.

On June the 6th, in a hand other than BH's, is written a reference to the words of a song by Handel 'Carry me to some peaceful shore...'

P.63. A flyer from the Bromley Naturalists Society about an excursion on Wednesday 10th 1903 to Kemsing chalk pit. Signed Harry Mellon, Honorary Secretary.

An article from *The Antiquary* of June 1903 by J. Russell Larkby about eoliths from Greenstreet Green and Terry's Lodge.

Another clipping about the collection of carved, or sculpted flints by Auberon Herbert. Collected from gravel pits in the vicinity of the New Forest, these flints, deemed to be about 200,000 years old, were exhibited at the Langham Hotel. The writer notes that scientists believe that the world had been submerged at least twice since the flints were carved.

P.64. A reprint from the *Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologists*, January 1903'. Of the *British Museum Guide to the Antiquities of the Stone Age*. Continues on to p 65 and then jumps to p 69.

P.65. More reprints of Pages from the above publication and a copy of a letter to the Editor about the British Museum '*Guide to the Antiquities of the Stone Age...*'

P.69. Continuation of the above from J Russell Larkby.

P.70. June 7th 1903. BH out walking to Terry's Lodge where he found many eoliths, one of which he notes had a strong bulb.

Some botany notes; *Epipactis*⁹ and *Halenaria*. Seen as well as sketch of the area walked.

Original letter from Sir John Evans to BH, dated September 9th 1896:

'...Many thanks for the Fane Hill implement no 733. I am returning the other two – That with the incrustations on it is interesting and it has a peculiar surface. Is the flint of which it is made a chalk flint? I have your letter this morning. I think that so far as bruising, battering and chipping off sharp angles are concerned man can imitate nature. On the other hand nature does not produce sharp cutting edges by alternate chipping in two

⁹ *Epipactis helleborine*, or the Common Helleborine, is found mostly in southern England in beech woods on chalk soil. It varies in colour from green to deep purple and its thick roots are often infected with fungus, which is entirely beneficial to the plant.

directions at all events where a number of chips have to be removed. With thanks...’.

Below this is a sketch of two eoliths, dorsal/ventral and lateral views.

P.71. June 9th 1903. Mr Swinton visited BH arriving at 4.30, lodging at Mrs Easts. BH and Swinton had a long chat about Oldbury Hill.

BH also records a walk with Mr Knight to Street Hill to see the fired clays and on their return they met D Walker who asked about what he was doing as to Oldbury. Walker advised BH to see Mr Harkin, who was also keen on Oldbury. BH wrote to Mr Harkin who visited BH soon after. Mr Harkin seems to have been keen to purchase part of the estate, especially the south portion of ‘the camp’. BH took him to Oldbury Hill where the parties involved had a long, and animated discussion, not all of which BH was privy to. BH remarks that Harking was obdurate and would not listen to any proposal saying only that he was determined to purchase. The following morning the suggestion was made to sell the land in ‘chunks’ involving one lot to be bought as a ‘nature reserve’.

P.72. Entry from the previous page continues and BH goes on to record that lot 1 was sold, but does not give details. Lot 2 sold for £640. There is some detail but BH’s writing is illegible at this point. He talks about boundaries being marked. He mentions the fact that Mr Stopes appears to have bought part of this land. Mr Knight too seems to have been involved with Stopes.

An entry about the weather conditions when the river Busty rose above the bridge, dated by Edward Harrison 11th June 1903 and on this day Mr Knight left for St Clere.

P.73. Sunday June 14th 1903. BH records heavy rain, which he noted to have been continuous since the previous Tuesday. He says: ‘Busty bridge a miniature Niagara’ with the water extending across to Mrs Watt’s bank.

Notes that Jenkins field was flooded. Wonders about Transfield’s Hippodrome at Maidstone and the state of Lock Meadow (on the west of the Medway), which he thought would be under water. A little diagram of Maidstone, the river and the site of the Hippodrome.

A copy of a letter from HS.Kingsford, dated 11th June 1903:

‘Re: Eoliths. I am sorry to say that we are unable to publish your letter as we are rather full up with matter, and the subject of eoliths is so controversial that we should probably be inundated with letters on the subject and at present we are no in the position to open the pages of *Man* for such a discussion.

We will however keep your letter by us, and in the event of our deciding to start a discussion in *Man* on eoliths we will publish and thus begin the matter.

In the meantime I would suggest you communicate directly with Professor Boyd Dawkins, Owens College, Manchester, who I am sure will be pleased to give you any information on the subject...’.

P. 74. BH mentions the fact that his wife stayed in bed all day but does not give a particular reason. From 7 – 9 am was spent in correspondence to Goldsworthy, Kennard and Ted after which he undertook a floods inspection, followed on by a ‘grand talk’ with Mr Swinton. After a rest in the late afternoon, he spent time in the Museum with a Mr S, who related his adventures in Africa before 1851 and in 1852 in Australia [this would have been of particular interest to BH since Tom, his elder brother left for Melbourne, Australia in 1852].

Obviously in a reflective mood BH mentions Chamberlain and quotes from him ‘What he is and what he might have been’. Discusses Cunningham’s article in *Natural Science*. Also mentions Abbott’s portrait and article on Plateau Man. Presented a leaf shaped arrow head to Mrs Swinton. He says of this ‘God fairy again’.

16th June 1903. Mr Swinton left and conditions favoured a walk to the station. Rain however stopped play and BH was back home by 11am. Swinton referred to Tennyson as a spiritualist. BH asked Swinton if he knew Tennyson who said he met him not long before his death, when Tennyson was said to have mellowed.

P.75. Continued from the previous page. A conversation between Tennyson and a faithful servant, a local in the area in which Tennyson bought land to build his house ‘Aldworth’ is then recounted. This includes the memory of the servant who had once encountering Tennyson before dawn in a wooded area where the local butcher, a Mr Bridger mistook him, clothed in a cloak and big felt hat, for the devil [mentioned in H of I. p 253]. Tennyson found this amusing and is said to have laughed at the story. One of his poems is quoted as perhaps a memory of this: ‘Faint as a figure form at early dawn. Down at the far end of an avenue’¹⁰

BH resolves to go over and see Bridger and have ‘some more Tennyson chat’¹¹.

Mr Swinton recounts his experiences in Australia, Africa and as far south as the Antarctic Circle. He tells of a time when he met a spiritualist in Eastbourne who promised to get him admitted to a séance at a well-known Spiritualist venue.

P. unnumbered. Shortly before this a friend died but not before promising to contact Swinton after his death if such things were possible. At the séance the lights were dimmed. He found the supposed contact between an individual and

¹⁰ From a poem entitled ‘Enoch Arden’, published in 1864 when Tennyson was poet Laureate, about a fisherman turned merchant seaman who disappeared for ten years leaving his wife Annie and their children and who, on his return found her re-married to his great rival. He died of a broken heart having never revealed to Annie his true status.

¹¹ Tennyson had Kent connections having lived for some time in Boxley, a village to the east of Maidstone at the foot of the North Downs

his dead father difficult to verify as a genuine experience as it involved an allusion to port wine which, as he noted, was less likely to have been the tippie of a labouring man (as was the deceased) than beer! However it transpired that port wine was given medicinally to this gentleman following an accident. He then goes on to relate putting his hand in his pocket and grasping what he thought to be a penny. He then asked the medium to tell him what he had in his pocket, and the reply was 'a half penny'. He said no but again the response was the same from the medium. However, when he looked it was indeed a halfpenny. He asked the date and was told it was 1702, which proved to be correct.

P.78. P.77 has been skipped but the narrative from the previous page is uninterrupted and continues on the theme of spiritualism. BH indicates that, were it not for Mr Swinton's upright and honest character, he would have taken all this with a good pinch of salt.

June 9th 1903. Ted's birthday. Very windy and rain to boot. BH describes the conditions as 'blizzard' with the strong wind coming from the north east. The temperature dropped sufficiently for BH to put on a great coat. He felt unwell in the evening.

BH notes an earthquake felt on the Isle of Man and in Wales at 10 [presumably pm].

Copy of a letter from William A Dutt of 8 Ipswich Road, Lowestoft:

'In an issue of *Nature* some weeks ago I saw a reference to a paper on flint implements contributed by you to the South East Naturalists.

Shall I be troubling you too much if I ask you to let me know whether your paper has been printed separately, and, if so where I can obtain a copy of it?

I have been giving much time lately to preparing Palaeolithic and Neolithic imps of the Eastern Counties and it has occurred to me that your paper may contain notes of some localities with which I am not acquainted Yours Faithfully, William A Dutt' .

Weather notes are continued with BH noting the change in weather conditions in 1860 after an earthquake in September. He hopes for a change as the weather they had experienced has been 'bad enough of late'.

P.79. Weather notes continued. Newspaper clipping detailing the earthquake in the Isle of Man and Wales.

Sunday 21st June 1903. BH wrote to Cunnington then went out at 9.20 noting the geology around Court Lodge where he also found many Neolithic flakes and two celts on the bare sand and eoliths in the drift.

In the evening he and Mrs H went out to Furze Field [Heron Shaw] and later to see the Crimsons where BH chatted to Mr Crimson.

Weather conditions listed following the earthquake from 19/6/03 to 26/6/03. It generally improved.

P.80. Tuesday 23rd June 1903. BH met Mary Thornton Michael BA, Secretary to the Gravesend Geological Club. He mentions a ride in a motor car at 3.30.¹²

This individual brought a letter announcing the BH had been elected, he does not say to what. The name of Henry Monkton follows this announcement. He then spent a long time in his museum in a very interesting task, though he does not specify its exact nature. He was taken for a ride to Seven Wents and refers to driving at 35 miles per hour.

When home he found a distinguished gathering at the village hall, and notes that the ladies were very pretty.

Saturday June 27th 1903. 90 degrees in the shade in London. The following day it was 82.

Copy of a letter from Professor Rupert Jones on the two 'sinuous implements from Terry's Lodge pit'. Dated June 22nd 1903:

'... The Rev Mr Bullen has kindly shewn me your letter and photographs and specimens and given me the letter intended for me.

The specimens comprised two fairly good eoliths and two quite different: one being (sketch inserted here) a notched form common Eolithic condition, and one a sub-oval Chellean form: and these two come either from the surface, or a little way beneath the surface.

It would be of great interest to register where, the subsoil unstained Chellean forms you have in your collection and Mr Prestwich too, really were found.

I believe they indicate the gradations on the manufacture and fashion of the stone implements.

I wish that you had indicated somehow who and which are the individuals in the photograph. Excuse scribble. I can't write better today. Yours truly J R Jones'

P.81. Another hot day, 82 degrees F in the shade on Sunday June 28th 1903. BH obviously suffering from insomnia because he recounts getting up at 3.15 and making his way to Mount Pleasant and what he terms 'The Hill of Assembly'. When there he took bearings of the sunrise using his compass. He must have done this at a specific spot because he mentions [if his writing has been deciphered correctly] 'stone marked trees'.

¹² This is one of his first references to riding in a motor car.

The morning was very bright but cool with a south westerly wind and he considered it a real treat to see Oldbury by sunrise when the sun lit the south bank with a ruddy glow and made Williams house look quite pretty. The birds were numerous at this time of day and sang sweetly in the bushes.

BH had a quiet day with some visitors. Copy of a letter from Russell Larkby to Lord Avebury, dated 18th June 1903:

I beg to enclose for your Lordship's inspection a small eolith found during my last visit to Mr Harrison's pit at Terry's Lodge.

I feel it almost superfluous to point out its features but I would call your Lordship's attention to the double point and the facts that the chips were struck from the same edge. The implement was found 4ft below the superficial deposit under circumstances proving it to be a true and integral part of the Plateau drift.

I have no doubt your Lordship has already examined the section. I am afraid it will shortly be closed when facilities for an adequate examination would be at an end.

(PS. You will peruse his Lordship's words In answer to my urging as to whether he has seen the Downs pit. Of course I am quite aware he has not, hence my annoyance at his silence. JRL'.

P.82. The weather between June 28th and July 1st was hot and cloudless.

Sunday July 5th 1903. Duller and rain threatening, despite which BH and JRL went to High Field where they found four interesting eoliths.

At 10.30 Mr Bennett joined them for a trip to Mount Pleasant, the rock shelters, hill top and Seven Wents. BH and Dr Blundell, whom they met whilst out, returned together and they had an interesting chat on spiritualism.

In the evening BH went to the 'Sphinx' [possibly in Styants Bottom]. He met Blind Ames with whom he had an interesting chat. Notes the plain denudation gravel down to Crown Point. He also refers to a Roman well at Styants Bottom. [There certainly is a very boggy spot in Styants Bottom to this day which may be the place to which BH refers.]

Copy of part of Lord Avebury's reply to JRL:

'... "I return the enclosed with thanks and also the specimens. It is I think no doubt worked. The so-called Eoliths represent, it seems to me, the rudier implement of the Palaeolithic period'

This must be a letter from Russel Larkby to BH in which he has included part of Lord Avebury's letter to make a point. He continues:

‘So you see he will accept them as worked but denies the geological isolation. It seems to me that in making this remark he is simply following Boyd Dawkins who is speaking from experience!!!

I am of course quite convinced that Lord Avebury and Professor Boyd Dawkins honestly say what they mean. Lord Avebury in fact only expresses the opinion “It seems to me”.

To others of course who have seen the sections and worked on the actual ground it seems very different. Thus contemporaneity of type is an impossible theory. The method of chipping or...

P.83. Letter from previous page continued:

... or hacking? – the general absence of flaking, the restricted number of types, the rare occurrence of bulbs and the strongly characteristic ochreous patina, all show contrast with ordinary drift types.

I have replied to his Lordship’s letter by saying that Palaeolithic types are not found in the plateau gravels associated with eoliths and that such co-relation exists only in the lower gravels where they would naturally [have] found a resting place during the denudation of the higher levels’.

An entry re Whitaker’s guide to the *Geology of London* in which he mentions eoliths and the possible marine origin of the Plateau gravels. JRL tackled him on this point and received a reply... which is continued on p.84.

On Wednesday July 8th 1903, BH, Bennett and JRL out to Rocks Hill after which they take the trap to Bitchett Green and up the valley to Heaverham, an area associated with Romano British pottery. They inspected the white rock cliff and note the disintegration of the cliff, which seemed to be clad in ivy.

Via the Keepers cottage to Shingle Hill to reservoir and spring. They went up to a level of 700 feet OD by the curve sand road and examined the sections in a field being trailed for chert. Home via Dinas Dean valley. BH adds that he found two clumps of wild ?... close to the cottages and refers to the Medway gorge in relation to this.

P. 84. Continuation of JRL’s letter to Lord Avebury from previous page:

‘(At least I think not). In the last edition of late years the tendency has been to take these isolated high gravels as remains of old river gravels rather than as marine and I shall be inclined to add a remark and say “or remains of an old valley that has been mostly destroyed” You will probably add, “just like Whitaker!!”.

He has asked me to join the Geologists Association and I shall probably do so. I have been invited to exhibit my Eoliths and read a short note at one of their meetings in November’.

A few remarks about Whitaker, which are attributed to Veysey: 'he now preaches the faith which once he destroyed'.

Sunday July 12th 1903. BH and Mr L(arkby) out at 7am to Wrotham, South Park, Platt, Fairseat, Vigo where they appear to have been 'refreshed'. They took a circuitous route home via Dark Hill. That evening saw BH out again to High Field where he found many eoliths.

Elsie was at home. It rained for a short time clearing at six. BH out for a walk at eight then home.

Wednesday 5th July 1903. Larkby, Bennett and BH out to Rasput Hill via Longstreet Lane. They also walked to Rose Wood where JRL found a fragment of Romano British ware and a nice example of a Neolithic scraper. Again BH took a trip to High Field in the evening with Mr Knight.

P.85. Newspaper clipping about Robert Wallace and his biography entitled *Robert Wallace. Life and Last leaves*.

Copy of a letter to Lord Avebury, dated July 17th 1903:

'Ten years ago yesterday I received from the Trustees of the Christy collection a cheque for a selection of Palaeolithic implements from the Kent Plateau.

Professor Prestwich writing shortly before wrote thus: 'I saw Mr Read and Mr Franks yesterday. They will be willing on the consent of the Trustees of the British Museum to purchase the collection you have sent them. It is not however the typical collection. They wished to get. Lady Prestwich added a PS. "My husband also hopes that you will not part with your best specimens unless with a sufficient equivalent"'.

P.86. BHs letter to Lord Avebury continued from the previous page:

A well known scientist, FGS, whom I consulted, wrote " You must look upon years by as a successful coster whereby great tact and diligence holds on a barrow full of choice apples, and Covent Garden bare of supplies.

These apples are good enough to grace a Royal table, but no sound coster would sell the pick of his fruit to Royalty for sixpence, whilst there are m....? tables vending choice fruit.

A month ago I was approached by an interviewer from the *New York World*. I displayed on my large table the selection I had resolved to off the Christy Trustees, or British Museum authorities. He was much impressed. The following Sunday I distinguished man came to see me – the series was still laid out...

P.87. Letter to Lord Avebury continued:

I spoke of my position and said “what ought I to ask for this collection” He replied “if you are patient you will give the national Museum the first offer and should ask 30 guineas, but if you offer America you will get thrice as much’.

At the time of the transfer the eoliths were somewhat sub-judice, but given that time [and] 10 years persistent work has been done, I venture to think the case for Eolithic Man has been considerably strengthened. However, as my master is no more and your Lordship signed the cheque I am prompted to write.

For this reason I have not approached Mr. Read... .

Sunday July 19th 1903. BH and JRL to High Field, where they found some eoliths. They were joined by Bennett at 10am. Heavy rain compelled BH to do a three-hour stint in the garret overhauling every box, a task he found very interesting. He found some choice ‘rudes’ that he had not seen for years.

BH mentions a lot of damage, about £2000 worth, at Tonbridge as a result of thunderstorms and heavy rain.

An interesting one-line comment: ‘On Thursday I was completely laid by owing to a terrible depression...’ He refers here to a weather depression rather than a depression of his mood [though I suspect that BH was subject to times when low mood affected him adversely].

P.88. Letter to Lord Avebury continued:

I am I think justified in mentioning one incident.

A month before Mr Whittaker FRS was approached by a worker and he writes “I expect you have seen Whitaker’s guide to the geology of London, in which he mentioned so-called Eoliths and the possible marine origin of the Plateau gravels!

I tackled him on this point and this evening he replied “My remarks of the gravel were made a long time ago and I see have not been altered (at least I think not) in the last edition.

Of late years the general tendency has been to take these isolated high gravels as remains of the river gravels, rather than as marine, and now I should be inclined to add a remark to that effect, and say “or remains of and old valley that has been mostly destroyed’.

P.89. Sir John Evans writing on the 9th September 1896 said:

‘I think that so far as bruising, battering and chopping off sharp angles are concerned man can imitate nature. On the other hand nature does not produce sharp cutting edges by alternate chipping in two directions, at all events when a number of chips have to be removed’.

On Whit Monday BH determined to have a field day, writing:

‘ - a thorough good turn at my pit on Terry’s Lodge hill, and so ins...?a number of well known men .

We had a grand and very successful turn as regards eoliths, but no pals found. But according to Sir John Evans ?... Man is there for among the spoil secured are two flints bearing alternate work, though very rude.

Now I care not, my landscape from my garden bears fruit at every point. The escarpment from Cotman’s Ash gap on the west...

P.90. BH’s letter to Lord Avebury continued:

‘west to the bold cliff on the east by Holly Hill where the Medway gorge declines from 600 [OD] to sea level.

My dip slope on the west in the Folkestone beds (which Mr Topley spoke of in one work as a splendid example of a dip slope). This embraces the rock shelters and my house stands on a terrace of the Shode so that the hill gravels and the low-levels are all to be seen and all proved to be implementiferous.

When in 1874 I became possessed of series, *My Garden* I was much impressed and determined to do something on a small scale like it in working out my own areas. Alas! The death of my wife and infant prevented. So now I can truthfully say I have the thing desired in hand.

I forward for your Lordship’s inspection drawings of the series saved to offer and remain, My Lord, Yours very respectfully, B Harrison’

P.91. BH copies the notes of ‘JFB’ to JRL [Larkby] in which the claims for prehistoric settlement in Ightham and those of what are referred to as being from late palaeolithic times are discussed.

- Rock Shelters
- Neolithic
- Bronze and Celtic times
- Medieval
- Modern.

The geology of Ightham is referred to but not outlined or listed.

P.92. Copy of a reply to Romilly Allen, not dated:

‘... I regret your inability to read my letter and though I had no difficulty in reading yours, still I failed to understand it, and conclude it was intended for some other correspondent.

One word mackintosh, puzzles me also. I do not supply such but am open to purchase a fair straight waistcoat which may be presumably required by the Eolithic cranks – of whom without vanity I say it, I am chief... Yours truly, B Harrison.

PS I however the Campbell Bannerman's of the British Museum, alight from the fence on the right side for the cranks it is not unlikely the opponents may need. It would be well therefore to buy largely and be prepared for a bean – then like the Eoliths in hand may be sold at a considerable profit'.

The original letter from Romilly Allen, which prompted the response from BH transcribed above is on the opposing page. It is a rude rebuttal of eoliths and their proponents.

Newspaper clippings [from the *Kent Messenger*] by 'Verax' about Maidstone and its history.

P.93. Saturday July 25th 1903. Mr. Cazelet called on BH and expressed an interest in Rose Wood, which prompted the following epistle from BH:

'... It gave me great pleasure to find you interested in Rose Wood and as I was somewhat excited by the sudden and unexpected visit I possibly was not so clear as I would have liked.

Permit me therefore to give some particulars for it is an interesting fragment of an interesting prehistoric settlement.

When I first knew it in the 50's the low land embracing metals, plantation and the plot on which R Crimson's house stands was a complete bog.

My father drained the latter, it was this work I was struck by the many relics of the stone age.

I then paid attention to the pits and co... ways in Rose Wood, and here my search was successful and having drawn the attention of the Honorary Secretary of the Kent Archaeological Society to it a visit was planned by him and Canon Jenkins and later on by the Society to Oldbury. This was followed in a fortnight by Sir John Lubbock (Lord Avebury).

They all accepted as a pit village and I continued to search it and got my relics.

The name itself is suggestive, being probably derived from the Celtic, signifying a man – and Hale's land always went by the name of the "M..o". I then traced the pits to the adjoining second pit area and later on to Raspit Hill. This name too is significant and probably is derived from the Celtic for promontory...

P.94. Continues from the previous page:

. . . . On this area I found abundant relics and more particularly near the Fish Pond slopes where there were innumerable chips of flints and some worked ones to show an important settlement near the water.

Our Mr. Geo Payne taking in hand his area chronological survey of Kent, he came several times and he excavated (by permission) in two of the pits and found sufficient remains (of) British pottery to convince him.

Lord Avebury in his visit 1872 fully accepted, and has many choice relics I sent to him in these early days. I then was prompted to mention to your father, and he was greatly interested and purchased back the standing wood and stopped more trenching on the north western part to preserve for ever.

Alas! The entanglement in politics and the Eastern question and later on his lamentable death, checked progress.

Now after 15 years persistent work at my greater antiquity of man, I began to think of my old love and for this purpose during the past two months have gone quickly taking notes and verifying former work and for this purpose went to the huge blocks of Oldbury stone in Fairbourne Park and so this work was prompted to write Mr Fuse on this point.

I send on for approval some sets of Eoliths and will carefully go through any stones and get out and sketch some acquired from near Rose Wood.

I also enclose Mr. Payne's work in proof of my assertions and venture to send my little paper on Body Stones. It may interest (you). ...

P.95. Continued from the previous page... On Mr Hale coming to Ivy Hatch he was so desirous to acquire, that he purchased all findings, and in one instance to secure a splendid arrowhead (a masterpiece) gave the finder two guineas.

However, I could not afford to bid so high, but I dare say I can get more so that Fairlawn may have a strong series from so important and interesting a spot on the estate.

Trusting I may not weary you by all these details. Yours respectfully, B. Harrison'..

Though this next entry could be read as a continuation of the forgoing latter, it is not. Re: Maidstone Museum: (question asked) 'I had hoped to complete the transfer by placing the whole of my life work then representing the alphabet of man, but alas! A matter of fact Town Councillor moved a proposition that I be approached and offered the sum in hand for a part.

This was done so precipitately that others who were coming forward to help to acquire the whole were ruled out. However I determined to take

back half the collection and am now doing my best to dispose of to private collectors. Should any of your numerous visitors be interested I shall be only too pleased to send sets on approbation and enclose a circular'.

P.96. Bank Holiday Sunday, August 2nd 1903. BH readied himself on what was a fine Bank Holiday, for the visit of Croydon Scientific Society, who, at Sevenoaks were fortunate enough to find many flakes and one celt. Evening visitors from Orpington, Mr and Mrs Henning.

3rd August 1903. More visitors, Mr Roberts and Mr Higg. They all went to the rock shelters after an inspection of Middle Wood rocks and then on to the fissure. Percy Martin then drove them to Addington (megaliths) where BH observed two fallen stones and a circle (this would be what today is known as The Chestnuts). The fallen stones measure 7 yards in length.

From there to the Coldrum on their way BH says they: '...cut through the briars, thorns and nettles and managed to clear around the pin stones'. BH comments that one of these stones appeared to be about 7 yards long and 2ft 9 inches thick. Daniels estimated the weight of this to be about '30 – 1. ½ CWT. BH says 'he is working near Stonehenge and brought me a paper but says the estimates of weight 70 tons is in excess. In returning, near the windmill I saw a young shrew ... running across the road...'.

A delightful original letter from Agnes, dated 31st July 1903, and sent from Ipswich, (16 Lower Brook Street) where she was studying. She outlines her exam success and her experience of a teaching session, part of the assessment, which filled her with nervous apprehension.

An explanation of spindle whorls, and a sketch of same. This is also described as a 'grindstone' though from the size, 'about the size of a penny piece' it sounds more like a spindle whorl rather than a grindstone.

P.97. Newspaper clippings about stones and the 'stone races'. In this article Auberon Herbert is named as the collector of stones deemed to have been altered so as to resemble people and animals. He notes that Geikie puts their existence in between glacial periods whilst Lyell puts it after the ice. These are of course figure stones of which Mr WM Newton of Dartford was probably the greatest protagonist of the day.

An original programme from the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, dated 1st July 1903, among which events is one to Wrotham on the 11th July.

P.99. (98 has been skipped). More newspaper clippings, all undated, some of which were published in *The Daily Chronicle*. Some about the Fleet Street woolly-haired rhino and more about figure stones.

P. 100. More newspaper clippings. One about Africa and another, on blue paper, about Stonehenge, described as a 'Druidical temple'.

Copy of a letter to Clement Read of the British Museum, dated August 6th 1903:

‘It is over 10 years since the Trustees of the Christy collection purchased of(f) me a series of Palaeolithic implements from the Kent Plateau.

I have many times been advised, in fact strongly urged to offer a series of Eoliths for the Natural [History] Museum, but I determined not to do so until 10 years had passed – so that, as Mr Spurrell remarked at the time (1893) “there will be plenty of jaws broken over these rude implements”.

As he is not longer in Kent, and in his last letter (in Durban) spoke of his being a martyr to rheumatism, I can no longer ask him to act. In your letter dated 20th June 1893, you thus wrote “If you can persuade Mr Spurrell to act as middleman he should be quite ready to accept them”.

This letter seems to be continued on the following page.

P.101. Sunday September 21st 1903. Visitors, this time Mr and Mrs Symonds and Mr and Mrs Abbott. BH walked to the pit, with the others following in the trap. There they had a good time and found some persuasive eoliths. A perfect day for BH. He says: ‘...a long steep pull up my Eolithic hill’.

A leaflet entitled *Neolithic Man in North East Surrey*. In this publication is included a chapter on the constitution and alteration of flint.

Following on from BH’s letter to Mr Read of the previous page:

‘I took pains to walk up to Be[l]vedere and he acted for me and the transfer was made and cheque sent on behalf of the inspector of the Christy collection. July 12th 1893’.

The entry that follows is about Plateau Man and BH’s efforts to have the theory accepted with his efforts over a ten year period. He notes that working as he did in this regard, at levels above 700 ft OD, he found many eoliths but no palaeolithss in situ.

Whitaker’s utterances such as those in the *Guide to the Geology of London*, only a month before in which he notes the possible marine origin of the Plateau gravels, are deemed an important contribution.

P.102. A newspaper clipping of a poem by Canon Scott Temple and another piece on Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The entry from the previous page about Whitaker continues, stating that his remarks on the gravels were written a long time ago and have not changed. He comments further on other theories which consider the high gravels to be the remains of an ancient river system though, he adds, it could be the remains of a now mostly destroyed, ancient valley.

BH mentions the 1902 pit dug at Terry’s Lodge 750 ft OD where he found plenty of evidence of Eolithic Man but not a trace of Palaeolithic Man. Mentions that he

had a field day on Whit Monday attended by eminent men from the Geographical Society who found two eoliths. Sir John Evans 'ruling' is mentioned in relation to the finds but not specified.

P.103. Saturday night ?29th September 1903. A tale about Miss Harkin who had been to Mr Thompson's house where she had a cup of tea. The piece, entitled 'A Wild Goose Chase', is village gossip, which to the outsider, and those removed by space and time, makes little sense.

Quote from Sir John Evans dated September 9th 1896:

'I think so far as bruising, battering and chipping off sharp angles is concerned Man can imitate nature. On the other hand Nature does not produce sharp cutting edges by alternate chipping in two directions, at all events where a number of chips have to be removed...'

BH then comments, mentioning that 'two specimens are so worked'[probably the specimens found at Terry's Lodge on Whit Monday as noted on p 102], implying that Evans has conceded a point and also that Whittaker's determination of the geological position similarly proves his assertions. BH says that he has kept a series to offer to the Museum as well as plates of the same series. He notes that he has others wishing to acquire the eoliths but wants to give the Christy collection first offer. [This is quite repetitive having been recorded elsewhere in BH's archive].

P.104. A newspaper clipping about the work of Wedgewood and his forerunners.

The letter from the previous page about eoliths and the Christy collection concludes: 'I have also picked a few of these sent to illustrate Mr Cunningham's geological paper and also sent these but I am not over desirous to part with these... B. Harrison'.

A short letter from Mr CM Dalton on behalf of the Keeper at the British Museum acknowledging receipt of the drawings of his implements that will be shown to Mr Read as soon as he returns in a week or so. Dated 8th August 1903.

P.105. A rather terse letter from CH Read to BH dated 25th August 1903 asking him what the point is of the drawings sent whilst he was away on vacation. Asks if this current offer of eoliths suggests that the previous selections bought from him by the museum is inadequate!!!

P.109. BH has jumped 4 pages here. Poem about the railway beginning 'The engine bears me swiftly ere...'

Copy of a letter from Rutot dated 19th September 1903:

'...I have a little piece of news to tell you which I think will give you pleasure. Sir John Evans has been to Brussels and he came three times to see our prehistoric collection, and especially the eoliths. I think I have succeeded in making him understand the eoliths and that he is very near

adopting them. It would be an excellent thing if he did admit them and would be greatly to his honour and much appreciated. There is also (the) question of a visit for CH Read, Director of the Department of British Antiquities in the British Museum. I suppose that you know that all the serious prehistorians admit the eoliths. A true nature always gains the victory. Yours truly, A Rutot’.

P. 110/111. The railway poem continues. [A little like the ‘Faster than Fairies, Faster than Witches’ poem of Robert Louis Stevenson]¹³ and sent to BH by Bevington sometime before they were reproduced in this volume. Another poem, but this time by BH who mentions his family starting with ?Liz who was staying near Frome. Agnes is mentioned though she stayed at Leeds. Ted too is mentioned, as is his salary, always paid punctually, whilst poor old BH struggles with his finances. It continues with the suggestion that Kent may have been the cradle of man and adds a line to the effect that Sir J. Evans noted, at the 1894 Oxford meeting of the British Association, that Kent was an unlikely cradle for humanity.

P.111. The poem occupies most of this page but Sir John Evans and the British Association meeting at Oxford of 1894 is mentioned. Sir John voices doubt as to human origins being in Kent.

P.112. Poem concludes. Noted: a copy sent to Colonel Bevington on 5th October 1903 as well as a copy for his father.

An account of Ted’s much-anticipated holiday. A failure as far as trips go, he went out to all the old familiar haunts with the exception of the first day when he and Mr Abbott came and they had a grand day out. It seems to have been rather wet which put a stop to some of the outings. The day of his departure saw a deluge and a gale of the ‘first magnitude’.

P.113. BH wrote, in poetic form, to Edward after this rather disastrous holiday expressing the hope that the next holiday would be altogether more conducive to outings. His disappointment on Ted’s behalf is almost palpable.

A translation of Rutot’s book p 429, and entitled ‘Silex du Puy Cornay’. In it Rutot discusses the doubts over the Thenay Eoliths. According to Rutot they:

‘absolutely answer the definition of Eolithic art they are really superb...

P.114. Rutot quotation continues to p 117 interspersed, as is BH’s habit, with his daily activities and general comment.

The oldest stone tool industry, Eolithic is, it is claimed, can be traced back to Miocene times in parts of Europe and Britain. Dr Capitan informs the reader that this is the first descriptive work about the eolith industry. Sir J Prestwich is credited with knowledge of eoliths in Britain where eoliths are

¹³ From *A Child’s Garden of Verses* and entitled ‘From a Railway Carriage’ 1885.

often found in the pebbly bottom of a drift from where [in ancient times] the clayey alluvium from rivers spread from the top of pebbly plains in Kent. These were always about 30 meters above sea level.

Sunday October 11th 1903. BH receives a visit from Dr Herbertson of Oxford. He was studying the Shode. It rained! Museum session for 4 hours. Dr Herbertson is said by BH to have produced a small spectroscope, sketched, which curtailed their activities in the valley of the Shode. BH referred to Lord Avebury and cites his reply to his letter: 'Evolution no doubt runs through nature and in a sense that of animals may be compared with that of implements. Side by side with the skilfully finished Palaeolithic implements there must always have been ruder tools, and half finished and spoilt tools'. Professor Herbertson did not agree with this, suggesting that eoliths are quite distinctive. BH replies with evident pleasure and draws analogies with bicycles, which Professor Herbertson considered very apt.

P.115. On the left hand side of the page the entry from the previous page about Professor Herbertson continues. He seems to imply that eoliths may be simply half finished, or spoilt tools made by Palaeolithic man rather than representative of the earlier industry of less evolved humans.

BH replies with an analogy to the evolution of bikes from 'bone-shaker' to those with rubber-wheel tyres suggesting that, even though both types may be found, they were not contemporaneous. Herbertson apparently liked the analogy.

On the right-hand side of the page the entry about Rutot's book continues, making reference to the Cromer beds and the Pliocene. He notes the fact that the drifts in which eoliths are found, are always elevated to about 130meters OD.

P.116. Conclusion to Professor Herbert's visit, noting the persistence of the rain, throughout the country, and the correct spectrum given by the spectrometer.

Sunday October 18th 1903. BH's Correspondence occupied him until 9am. Discusses the geology of the land around Newton's house where a water line was being laid. It was a mass of chalk pellets, Tertiary pebbles and white flint.

BH sent word to Mr Bennett who made a trip there the following day. BH notes finding a very nice beak-shaped eolith¹⁴ which he gave to Mr Bullen. The waste heap is noted to be very interesting. Section sketch of the place.

On the right-hand side of the page Rutot's book commentary continues. An explanation of ancient geological phenomena which gave rise to present-day land forms.

¹⁴ This mention of a beak-shaped eolith is interesting and may reflect the move beginning around that time, from Ightham and Kent to East Anglia as the centre of greatest importance where the carinate, or beak-shaped eoliths predominated as the most prolific form

P.117. Wednesday 21st October 1903. In the margin BH has written in red ink 'Memorial window in Shoreham'. He refers to the Burne Jones memorial window dedicated to Professor Prestwich, his wife and his sister.

BH out walking towards Shoreham. Took the train and at the station (Shoreham) met Sir John Evans and Dr Tylor with whom he had a chat. This journey may have been made to celebrate the life of JP but BH makes the excuse that he was dirty with mud and could not change his clothes at Lovelands and was thus prevented from attending. He does say that many were prevented from attending owing to the wet conditions, however, the more likely explanation is that he felt uncomfortable in such a formal social occasion with so many of society's elite and used his dirty clothing as an excuse to escape.

Reverend Bullen gave the address, which BH describes as 'admirable'. How he knew this is a mystery since he did not attend the service, though he would have known many of those who attended who must have kept him well informed as to the details of the occasion.

The consideration of Rutot's writings continued. The Pliocene geological phenomena that gave rise to the current landscape is continued.

P.118. Copy of a letter from BH to Clement Read, dated October 13th 1903:

'... Thanks for the return of specimens. As my letter was humbly written and the sketches made in hast to catch post, the part you fail to grasp might have been owing to lack of clearness on my part. However, permit me to report. I find many distinguished men of science gravitating to Ightham who having been to Bloomsbury are unable to understand the ?...ts and characteristics of the Eoliths by reason of the way the specimens are shown.

They return from here convinced, they go to Bloomsbury and are "n.... f..." .

As I was advised some 10 years since to send a series to some serious public institution in London where the eoliths might be shown in such a way as to be taken up and carefully...'

This letter is concluded on p 119 as follows:

... [and] examined. I was led, after receiving a visitor on the day I forwarded, to find a series for such [a] purpose, and not to offer for sale as your letter implies.

However things are moving at [an] accelerated pace re the eoliths and their geological position that I am not desirous in any way to firm the position.

A letter from Clement Read at the British Museum dated 18th October 1903.

'Dear Sir, I should perhaps have answered your letter earlier – but I have been trying to understand the point.

I am afraid I so not see anything among the flints now in question
That is not already fully illustrated in our collection.

As a general principle moreover, I am not disposed to spend public
Money upon any objects of which the archaeological value is in my
Judgement, doubtful. I am returning the flints and the drawings. Yours
Faithfully, CH Read’.

P.119. In part a copy of a letter written by Professor Prestwich 10th November
1892:

“ Dear Sir, You cannot force the position. Have faith in time and right and
wait the verdict of the majority... I am yours truly, Joseph Prestwich”.

If I may judge from what Mons Rutot tells me of a distinguished
specialist...

A sketch of three views of a palaeolith found in Ash Hop Garden in October
1903 and given to Sir John Evans who considered that it bore a striking
resemblance to the Limpsfield specimens.

P.120. The reply to Clement Read from page 118 continues:

‘going three times to the Brussels Museum specially to see the eoliths, and
from Museum of Ethnology of Berlin sent me by Lord Avebury with a
major marked passage which translated runs “Here are worked flints
according to Professor Klaatsch in Tertiary deposits, overlain by an upper
Miocene drift, which in its turn is carried up by a Pliocene lava stream –“
well, I am content to be patient.

Our incident of last week may be pardoned. I was laying down not very
well and was somewhat disturbed by the arrival of two gentlemen. One
was a gent who came to Ightham three times on his vacation, and on the
last occasion I took him to my pit on Terry’s Lodge summit at 750 ft OD
On getting to my museum he said... .

Continued on p 122, right-hand side.

Original letter from Clement Read, dated 14th October 1903:

‘... You certainly did not fix a price for the flints you sent but you said they
were cheap at 20 guineas or some such phrase. I am afraid the opinions of
your chance visitors on Palaeolithic matters do not move me much. I think
it better for me to wait, as you say you are content to do. Yours faithfully,
CH Read’.

BH has also copied this letter from Read.

BH jumps from p 120 to p 122.

P.122. BH's reply to Clement Read from page 120, left hand side, is continued and concluded here:

‘Oh! Mr Harrison, I was at the British Museum last week and took one of the flints you picked out for me at the pit. Was it accepted? “Oh yes, Mr Read found (it) undoubtedly worked but the age is not so great as Harrison supposes”.

As I said before, I am content to wait and when as on Sunday last, I found a professor from Oxford coming specially to see my collection and spending 4 hours in a most careful examination of the eoliths and going away convinced – then I can only say I would rather reign In Ightham than serve in – Forgive my prolixity... Yours truly, B Harrison’.

A letter to Mr Read that seems to stand alone rather than as a part of any of the previous correspondence. Though not part of the last reply it is repetitive:

‘I have therefore kept a few to offer to the British Museum and a few plates of the same for inspection.

I have others wishing to acquire but I determined to give the Christy collection the first offer. I have also a picked set from those sent to illustrate Mr Cunington's Geological paper, and also send these but I am not desirous to part with these.

It will then be seen I made no mention as to price but in a letter accompanying some of the flints and plates sent to Lord Avebury in July I thus wrote his Lordship: “A month since I was approached by an interviewer from the New York World – I displayed on my large table the selection I had used to offer to the Christy trustees or British Museum authorities...

P.123. Letter to Read from previous page continued: He was most impressed:

The following Sunday a distinguished man came to see me. The series was still laid out. I spoke of my position and said – “What ought I to ask for the collection”. He replied – “If you are particular you will give the Natural Museum the first offer, and I should ask 30 guineas, but if you offer to America, you will get three times as much”.

This is the price I ask, 30 guineas.

On September 26th I received a letter from Margate from the son of my old friend the late Mr JB Bevington FGS. He referred to his fathers collection and said he should present it to a museum in London he was interested in and added “ I am sure my father would be pleased to see his collection established in a locality in which he felt so much interest”. ... Continues on p 124...

A newspaper clipping recording the dedication of the Burne Jones window in Shoreham Church to Sir Joseph Prestwich by Rev Ashington Bullen. The great and the good attend this service. Lady Grace Anne Prestwich and his sister Civil Mary, are also remembered in this window. The central panel represents creation and is from BJ's 'The Six Days of Creation'. Inside the globe held by this angel are light and darkness. The figures either side represent love and joy.

P.124. A continuation of the newspaper account of the dedication to Sir JP of the Burne Jones window in Shoreham church. Two further, small clippings, one with a four-line verse and the other containing names of those who attended the ceremony, including BH.

The Clement Read letter continues with more of the debate as to where the coliths should be placed:

... This was altogether a surprise to me and I at once replied that in the event of the British Museum not acquiring I should give him a second offer and I had faith enough in the cause to say that scientists would ... for study.

He replied on October 1st [1903]:

"With regard to your collection it would be better placed in the British Museum than in a local museum at Bermondsey where comparatively few scientific men would see, but it must be disappointing to you to have to wait for so long a time without a decided answer", adding "I should be glad to present my father's [Buckingham-Bevington's] collection, and ask you to arrange in cases, and also purchase some of yours to make it more complete".'

P. Unnumbered. Sunday October 25th 1903. A wet day! This did not stop BH and some friends visiting Buley where they found 'a nice pal', Then it was on to Mrs Mills where BH bought a Wedgewood jug.

Sunday November 1st 1903. BH at home on what turned out to be a dull day. He was nursing a cold. He mentions the previous night's visitor, Mr WM Newton.

Letter to Lord Avebury, whilst reading his book, *The Scenery of England*, in which BH sketched some specimens from Fane Hill and Buley.

Big 'magnetic' storm on Saturday with the whole county affected and an aurora observed.

Clement Read saga continued. With mention of Professor M.....? from Yale who, on parting said he would not forget BH.

Also notes the introduction to the American museums and institutions via the late Dr Thomas Wilson of Washington, Professor Packard of Rhode Island and Dr James Geikie. [It sounds as if BH might just be name-dropping to let Clement Read know just how well-regarded he was in academic circles].

Chance visitors from the England Natural History Society, the Geological Society and the Society of Antiquaries for a survey.

P.125. Underlined: 'Emerson in London – P 64'. Below this is the quotation, given to Dr Evans on October 27th 1903. 'All through his life he kept a journal'. A longer quote from Emerson's work of 1837 which begins 'This book is my savings bank. I get richer because I have somewhere to deposit my earnings, and fractions are worth more to me because corresponding fractions are waiting him that shall be made ... by his addition'.

More quotations in the form of a poem about 'eddying streams'.

A few words by FG Bonney who remarks on the need for sharpening the eyes of investigators.

A letter from Bonney, which continues to p.128:

'...I have now had the opportunity of looking carefully a second time at the specimens which you so kindly sent me to examine.

Mr Bell in his letter gave a fairly accurate diagnosis of my mental conditions. Now of the specimens at Oxford, or here in London, or what I have anywhere seen, including the contents of your box, carry conviction to my mind..."

P.126. Bonny's letter continued:

'My special object in going to Oxford was to see Tasmanian implements in Professor Tylor's collection.

These I should not have hesitated to accept, except one or two on which I would not have rested anything. These, however, were unnatural, when there was enough to prove the handiwork of man.

Of the so-called eoliths I can only say at present that while it is possible, man may have used them, I see no proof that he has.

But the sight of the Oxford specimens and of those you have sent in has been very valuable in bringing my ideas to a focus. I now see along what lines to direct future investigations: it may lead in to ?... being numbered among the currents or headlong in my unbelief – I shall carry it on, as far as possible with an open mind. Would you allow me to retain your...'

A sketch of a palaeolith from Fane Hill found on November 8th 1903 by Allchin. BH notes that it is 'Split up almost into nothingness'.

To Crowhurst with Mr. Martin Church. Then to Plaxtol, dull east wind, cold' .

P.127. Bonny letter continued from p 126:

‘... specimens now with me till the Spring.

I cannot do anything in the field in the cold short days now beginning so that when I can get out of town in the spring for a Saturday or an occasional weekend I may have a standard reference. Even if you cannot spare them so long I should like to retain them for two or three weeks. I find there is nothing like an occasional stare during an odd half hour at anything which is causing difficulty.

I should have come down to the dedication of the memorial window if I could have managed it – though it is very difficult for me to leave London on any day but Saturday. But the fact is that the first I heard of it was from Dr Tylor who said he had seen you –IE not till it was over.

As regards an exhibit of your specimens, I find I can do nothing. I have no influence...

Original letter from AM Bell, dated 25th October 1903, from 7 Rawlinson Road, Otford:

‘... I am much obliged to you for reading me the account and the dedication of the memorial window to Professor Prestwich at Shoreham. I am glad to hear that Sir John Evans was so amiable.

Professor Bonney was here yesterday, and for a couple of hours looked at my collection of Eoliths. I did not think he accepted one of them.

Now though I believe him to be quite wrong, and that the general verdict goes in the other direction. He is a very foremost geologist and thoroughly entitled to have his own opinion on these objects. One must look to advance judgements of this kind, and meet them with equability. Yours very truly, AM Bell’

P.128. Bonney continued from p 127:

‘... of the British Museum and at the others they have the Prestwich collection. There is not so far as I am aware, any plans where specimens are exhibited in deposit.

I return the extract from the ‘ships that pass’ – I think I once came across the book and read it imperfectly – Few men even realise their ideals but in regard to your work, permit me to say that, even if I remain among the unconverted, I am clearly sensible of its great value – you have discovered many things about Kentish man and the later geology of your district which are indisputable, and even if you fail in carrying his arrival quite as far back as you think, you will have done good service by stimulating research and sharpening the eyes of investigation.

Believe me, with many thanks. Very Truly yours, FG Bonney.’

Part of a printed article entitled 'Ships that pass in the night' under which is a sketch of a Palaeolith found by 'young Wright' in the gravel of Home Field and dated November 10th 1903.

P. 129. Sunday November 15th 1903. Despite it being a cold morning, BH went out to Platt via Basted and on the way he called in on Miss Hollands where he inspected a large fire back with a figure thought by BH to be Carolus 11 (sketched).

Also called in on old Chapman for a chat. And Evenden, whom, he noted, had a large case of battered flints from Wrotham Hill.

An entry from Bennett's *Megaliths*:

'I think you will find that our Wiltshire monuments are orientated to Sirius (dog star) and arranged for the sun's rays to strike at the Summer solstice. This ... has been well thought out especially in Egypt, in other words they are arranged in an eastward position channels generally point to the east, or that part of the east where the sun rises on the day of the saint to whom the church was dedicated. The whole is a relic of sun worship and accounts for the dead in a sitting position facing the east, or with their heads towards the east looking west.

The body of the Lord Was laid with his head towards the west, ergo he was looking east and though in medieval times the rule has always been observed. Your ideas are original and I will fully note every church...'

P.130. British Museum visit Thursday November 20th 1903. A cold, frosty morning. 'Called in on Tregaskins, Caxton's head - Mr Edmunds not at home'.

Once at the British Museum BH went straight to the prehistory department and encountered great difficulty ascending the spiral staircase. He found the eoliths, in the correct chronological niche but badly displayed, some not even showing any chipping or evidence of work. He observed that this would deter even a keen student who might say: 'Harrison is a crank of the first magnitude to show such a specimen'.

He refers to a sketch, [over page] that shows just how specimen, 57, so badly displayed, should be shown to obtain an optimum view for any observer. Went on to see Mr Read with his sketches and suggestions. Read not very receptive and, reading between the lines, was probably rude to BH who nevertheless stood his ground. BH's exact words to describe Read's reception are 'He began with a certain amount of official chill and wished to be brief, he was very busy'.

There follows an entry entitled Bourke? on Radium. He says he is writing a history of creation [from the scientific viewpoint] and ends '..and gradually through the geological stages getting to man as he appears in my imagination, older, far older than eo man'.

P.131. Sketches of specimen 57, from British Museum Eolith display, as BH would like them to have been shown rather than as they were [ineffectively in his opinion].

Original letter from Bonney, dated November 9th 1903 from his home at 23 Denning Road, Hampstead NW:

‘I have now had the opportunity of looking carefully a second time at the specimens which you kindly sent for me to examine. Mr Bell in his letter gave a fairly accurate diagnosis of my mental condition.

None of the specimens at Oxford or here in London, or what I have anywhere seen including the contents of your bin, carry /connection to my mind – my special object in going to Oxford was to see some Tasmanian implements in Professor Tylor’s collection. Those I should not have hesitated to accept – except one or two on which I would I would not have vested anything – There however were ?... where there was enough to prove the handiwork of man – of the so-called eoliths.

I can only say ?... that, while it is possible that man has used them, I see no proof that he has. But the ?right of the Oxford specimens, and of those you have sent me has been very valuable in bringing my ideas to a focus. I now see along what lines to direct future investigation; it may lead me to be numbered among the converts or harden me in my unbelief. I shall carry it on as far as is possible with an open mind – would you allow me to retain those specimens now with me till the spring (I cannot do any work in the cold, dark days now beginning)... When I can get into form in the spring for a Saturday, or occasional weekend, I may have a standard of reference.

Even if you cannot spare them so long I should like to retain them for two weeks. I find that there is nothing like an occasional trace during an odd half hour at anything that is causing difficulty.

I should have come down to the dedication of the memorial window if I could have managed it, though it is very difficult for me to leave London on any day but Saturday. But the fact is that the first I heard of it was from Professor Tylor who said he had piece – ie, not till it was over.

As regards an exhibition of your specimens, I fear I can do nothing. I have no influence at the Bloomsbury branch of the British Museum and at the other they have the Prestwich collection. There is not, so far as I am aware, any place where specimens are exhibited on ...?

I return the ... I think I once came across the book and read it... Few men ever realise their ideals. But in regard to your work permit me to say that, even if I remain among the unconvinced, I am deeply sensible of its great value. You have discovered many things about Kentish man and the later geology of your district which are indisputable, and even if you fail in carrying his approval quite as far back as you think, you will have done

great service by stimulating research and sharpening the eyes of... .Believe me, with many thanks. Very truly yours, FG Bonney’.

Copy of a letter from Bonney, dated November 20th 1903:

‘...I have this morning unpacked and examined the boxes which you kindly forwarded to me, and have made some notes upon them. They will be returned tomorrow.

One among them (5 Aylesford) looks like a rude Palaeolith, one edge of which has received (?subsequently) an eolithic trimming. The others leave me exactly where they found me, but show me more clearly the characteristic type.

Please do not send me any more, because it will be three months before I could venture to go out into the field to look for similar flints, the days being too short and the weather too cold for me to venture to start about or do hunting in the open air. So there is danger that anything observed now,...

P.132. Bonney continued:

... would fade from my eye before I could get to work.

In regard to the printed paper (?... Rochester) which I enclose, I quite agree with you that probably man used chance, or only slightly trimmed, stones before he made Palaeoliths of the St Acheul type, but there are two questions to be settled before we can argue from this concession – one, whether it is possible to recognise clearly what could be in the case of a natural fractured stone picked up because it served a chance want all used without trimming; for it has long lost the odour of primeval man, the other where we can distinguish that very rude artificial chipping from natural chipping, and that is where I am sticking from the present.

There is also a subordinate question, viz: whether man is likely to have passed through that very primitive stage in this country – on a priori ground I should have thought it more probable he did this in a warm climate... .

Continued and concluded on p 133,

More on the Read/BM saga: BH notes the return of the series he sent to Read as a potential addition to the Christy collection. He further says that Lord Avebury is a Trustee and suggests that the recipient of the letter write to him. He again discusses the unsatisfactory display of his eoliths and goes on to give particular instances. Notes his first ‘holiday’ in London, which coincided with a visit from the King of Italy, and comments on how gay Oxford Street was with bunting.

P.133. Bonney continued:

‘... and came here as Palaeolithic man but “a priori” difficulties would be dispelled by direct evidence.

When summer comes I shall hope to do more; either to be converted or hardened in my infidelity. At present I can only look at museum specimens. After thanking you most heartily and trusting the specimens and drawings will travel safely, I am very truly yours, FG Bonney‘.

BH has pasted in the original letter from Bonney, as transcribed above.

Newspaper clipping critiquing Rev John Scott Temple’s Sonnets, a copy of which was sent to BH who circulated it to other interested parties in the village.

An original receipt from Clement Read of the British Museum acknowledges receipt of ‘Eolithic implements of the bird’s beak type’. Dated 20th November 1903.

An extract from Tyndall’s *Scientific Use of the Imagination* p 67. The discourse touches on scepticism, described as ‘one of the parasites of science’. A strong constitution is said to defy this parasitism.

P.134. Sunday November 22nd 1903. A fine morning that saw BH take a brisk walk to Crouch at 09.10. He called in on Billings and also found what he thought may have been a polished sacrificial knife and 5 arrowheads, which he has sketched.

Geological examination of the plain in front of Bennetts’ house revealed the presence of Tertiary pebbles as well as white flint and some similarly white flakes and stained chert. Notes the death of General Luard’s son the week before.

Copy of a review, by Grant MacCurdy, of *Le prehistorique origin et antiquite de L’homme* by Gabriel and Adrien De Mortillet. The antiquity of man is judged thus:

- Chellean epoch (preglacial)..... 78,000 years
- Mousterian epoch (glacial)..... 100,000 years
- Solutrean epoch.....11,000 years
- Magdelanian epoch.....33,000 years

Total.....222,000 years

To which is added the 6,000 years since the beginning of the historic period in Egypt and another probable 10,000 years of the protohistoric and Neolithic to give humanity’s likely antiquity: 240,000 years. This is a figure that BH often quotes.

P.135. Wednesday November 23rd 1903. The day of the memorial service for captain Luard which saw the church full to overflowing. There follows a brief description of the day, which is mostly illegible, though BH concludes with the observation that the day was ‘remarkably fine’.

Sunday November 29th 1903. A cold wet day with heavy persistent rain. Obituary notice, in verse, of Eric Luard of the West Kent Regiment, who died of fever in Somaliland on November 13th 1903.

Copy of a letter from Rupert Jones which goes: 'Dear BH, Thanks for your very interesting prose rhapsody of your life history – an idealized biography, reciting one of our best phases in life'

P.136. Sunday December 6th 1903. A frosty day. BH out at 10.30 to Butchers – On reaching the level of 700ft he saw the '...the most wonderful display of hoar frost I have ever seen'.

Monday 7th December 1903. The frost was followed by some very wet days during which the temperature rose rapidly. BH notes that the following four days were very wet.

Original post card from Lord Avebury, dated 23rd November 1903: it concerns the specimens offered to the BM, on which Lord Avebury promises to communicate with his brother trustees and then write again to BH.

Original note from Lord Avebury, dated 21st November, 1903 in which he acknowledges the return of specimens sent to him by BH whom he says should consult Mr Read on the subject (the display of eoliths at the British Museum). BH has commented in red ink alongside these communications from Lord Avebury and mentions matters contrary to Mr Read's letter!

A short entry re: water and the county's watershed.

P.137. Sunday December 13th 1903. A dull day that saw BH head off for Terry's Lodge. where he met Pratt. They went on to view Crowslands and to search for a sprig of Christmas Rose¹⁵.

Sunday December 20th 1903. Received Mr Read's letter, the original of which is opposite and in which, at the suggestion of Lord Avebury, Read offers to buy BH's specimens for £30.00, for the British Museum. He then walked to Ash where he found a nice lot of eoliths as well as some Neoliths. Met Fuller, a self-taught man, at West Yoke, who had a broken palaeolith. After arriving home at 2pm he sketched 5 sets of eoliths.

A newspaper clipping about Swinburne, who is described as 'A Poet of Paganism'.

P.138. Thursday December 24th 1903. Cheque for £30.00 received from the British Museum Signed by Lord Avebury and Sir John Harkin on behalf of the Christy Trustees.

¹⁵ *Helleborus niger*, a perennial evergreen plant that flowers in winter and which can still be seen in places on the North Downs

On Christmas day Friday 25th December BH worked and also went walking to Robsacks. On Boxing Day he spent his time on his museum and the following day he walked to Crouch with Willie Jenkins and also sketched Raspit Hill.

The 28th December 1903 saw the temperature drop to 13 degrees below freezing (Fahrenheit) and BH notes that he was below par and obliged to stay in bed till Friday.

A poem 'In Memoriam' to Ernie Luard.

P.139. Sunday January 3rd 1904. Resting all day during which time BH completed some work on Raspit Hill and Rose Wood.

January 4th 1904 Agnes and Elsie returned.

January 10th 1904 BH and Willie Jenkin went to Crouch where they chatted with Evenden and went past Raspit Hill, which BH has sketched.

Conclusion of the poem to Ernie Luard.

Short extract from a letter/paper By Bell on the recent work on glacial phenomenon. BH then speculated on the semantics of 'Theory and Hypothesis'.

P.140. Part of a flyer from the Hampstead Art Society entitled *From Phideas to Flaxman: The story of sculpture* by Mr. Henry Rose.

P.141. Wednesday 13th January 1904. An enigmatic entry, made the more so owing to BH's illegible handwriting. It concerns unusual weather conditions and a severe thunderstorm, which badly affected Hastings and the Isle of Wight. The two days following this were almost too cold for BH to face and were followed on the 17th January by a severe frost.

Two pages from *The Rambler* of July 1904, which includes an amusing tongue-in-cheek piece about a visit to Ightham.

A piece by Kennard (who spent time in South Africa) about three eoliths found in the Transvaal and sent to him. From where they were found, in a gravel on the top of a ridge, older palaeoliths had also been found alongside them. What are referred to as 'true pals' are noted to have been found in lower deposits in the valley. The three eoliths are sketched, two of which are noted to be of quartzite.

P.142. Sunday January 24th 1904. To High Field where BH found two eoliths, which are sketched. The evening was spent writing about Bell, Allen Brown and Darbshire. Weather report: frost followed by a rise in temperature and rain.

More on Kennard and the Transvaal eoliths all of which were of quartzite with reversed working. Along with the eoliths was sent a flake, which, from the sketch, appears to be a truncated blade and is described as a 'true pal'. One of the eoliths has recognised features such as a bulb of percussion. Kennard was so pleased to receive the eoliths that he says he '... nearly stood on my head when I

received them...'. They were a Christmas present from a gentleman named Johnson. Kennard remarks that these particular eoliths would convince anyone that such stones are genuine artefacts.

P.143. An extract from '*Punch*' dated Jan 27th 1904. 'What kind of wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood' summarises the contents of the poem.

Original letter from Richard Shilling of Hertfordshire thanking BH for his encouragement and promising to visit the museum in which there are some eoliths.

P.144. Weather and lunar note. Says they have had a flood with the Busty overflowing and at Fenpond water was six inches over the road. There were floods at Tonbridge, the worst for many years. Labour was at a great standstill and there was generally great distress.

An extract from one of Virchow's works on physiology and mutability dated December 1902.

P.145. Thursday February 4th 1904. BH received a visit from Mr Coleman of Wrotham accompanied by Mr Walter A Coleman who was a member of the Geological Society, possibly from Manchester.

Sketch of a figure stone sent by Mr Newton.

Virchow continued.

P.146. Sunday February 7th 1904. On a fine day BH met Mr Bennett at the station (Mr Monckton did not come as planned) and they walked around the usual haunts, including Buley and Basted. He notes the swallow hole on Diplock's Land and close by the Old House at Home. Jack Temple arrived by the 3.30 train. Temple brought news of 'WAR'. He mentions that Japan has declared war. This entry is dated 6th February 1904.¹⁶

On the 13th February 1904 BH notes heavy rain and lightening and the barometer touched 28, a rapid fall following on quickly from the initial rapid rise. The boys from Swanley stayed at the village hall, they had got very wet.

The passage on Virchow continues with theories about the descent of man that are noted to be just that, theories rather than assured scientific facts. Virchow is said to have withheld his judgment taking the same stand as he did over the interpretation of the Neanderthal skull, which he considered as individual variation, claiming it would be absurd to construct an entire race from a single cranium'. The entry continues in this vein.

¹⁶ This was the Russo/Japanese war of February 8th 1904 to September 5th 1905. It was fought as a result of contested territory and rival ambitions in Korea and Manchuria

P. 147. February 14th 1904. BH did some sketching for Mr Newton until 11.30. The barometer was once again descending fast. BH walked to Bayshaw where he examined all the holed stone he was able to find. Met Mr Larkby at 3.30 with whom he had a long chat. Rain at 6pm.

February 21st 1904. A dull day so, BH stopped in and examined his holed stones. The evening was spent reading Hugh Miller's works with great interest. Mrs Harrison must have been ill because BH notes that she stayed in bed till 5.

Describes a terrible tragedy in Maidstone. Mr [Tootell,] killed his wife and two daughters and then drowned himself.¹⁷ Pictures of the Tootell family.

An extract of an Anthropological Institute Presidential address by Brabrook,¹⁸ not dated. It concerns research but does not specify exactly what type of research. However, there is a small extract from Huxley's work on what sounds like the Java skull (the *Homo erectus* specimen found by Dubois in 1892).

P.148. Sunday February 28th 1904. Cold with snow- storms. Had visitors from Battersea Field club who spent a long time with BH in the Museum. Mrs Harrison remained unwell and had a visit from the doctor at 8. She remained in bed all week with an unaccountable rash.

March 6th 1904. BH off to Basted Lane and received a visit from Mr Larkby at 3.30pm.

The following entry concerns Sir John Evans, to whom BH had sent a much worn pal from the Aylesford works. Evans suggests that the [geological] section from the Thames to the chalk gives a good idea of the extent of time covered by the Palaeolithic period. He considers the existence of pre-glacial humans in England unproven. He suggests that, though there may be scratches on some of BH's specimens it should be born in mind that there are mechanisms other than transport in a glacier that produce such features.

P.149. March 13th 1904. The dull morning did not stop BH from exploring Home Field, Dark Hill and Fane Hill. Percy Martin visited in the afternoon.

March 20th 1904. Another dull morning which saw BH out to Mr. Stewart's at 9.30 Sketched body stones later in the day.

The 27th March of that year was not only dull but cold and saw BH initially sketching and only later did he go to Fane Hill.

On Good Friday, April 1st BH gardened from 7 – 11 after which he went to High Field. On Easter Sunday, which was also cold, BH, Ted and Agnes went to see Blind Ames by way of the Crown Point path. He notes that he has known this path as a public right of way for over 60 years and had been to the spring hundreds of times.

¹⁷ An ex-military man and a former Maidstone Mayor [AM]

¹⁸ President of the Anthropological Institute from 1895-7

A copy of a letter from FC Gould, dated 21st January 1904 in which the writer thanks BH for sending him an interesting piece of flint which he thought resembled Chamberlain on both sides! BH thought the stone had been worked and was also very ancient. Refers to Auberon Herbert who had sent him some flints and pointed out the resemblance to human faces in these stones, which he thought the result of human intent. The writer professes his relative ignorance of flints but wonders if the shapes are accidental.

P.150. On Easter Monday. 4th April 1904 BH and Ted went to St Clere and Terry's Lodge. Noted that the gate to the top of Exdown. BH says 'Noticed that Sir Mark Collet has shifted gate at top of Exedown and put up a wire fence. This really diverts the path and if we go into next field owing to the strong hedge being made I fear we must remain there. Must see to it'. Ted saw Abbott the next day and Elsie returned on Monday afternoon.

Sunday April 10th 1904. A fine breezy day that saw BH sketching till 9 after which he went with Jenkins to Pink's, who then accompanied them to Wrotham. A copy of part of a letter from Gould who says 'Yours must be a very interesting study and it is very good of you to let me profit by your researches. I return the circular and must prepare extract. Again thanking you. Yours truly, F Carruthers Gould'

An extract from a letter from Whittaker to FJ Bennett in which he mentions river action at high levels. Dated 24th J[anuary] 1904.

P.151. A flint figure stone sketched by BH that he considered was like some of Gould's specimens. This he sent to Mr Gould noting that the flaking on this specimen preceded the addition of work, which gave the features, in this case the eye. The day following BH found another, quite similar stone, which he also sent to Mr Gould. A typed letter from Gould which BH has copied on p 149. On the back of this letter is a newspaper clipping of a lecture given to the Essex Field Club by Mr Larkby. Picture of Kits Coty.

P.152. Newspaper clipping about Auberon Herbert's study of figure stones. He was pursuing the study of such stones in Egypt and says that they compare favourably with the same sort of flints from English gravel pits.

The entry on Pink, continued April 1904. This is difficult to read and appears to recount an argument, possibly about a diversion on a right of way, between Colonel James and Pink, about which Colonel James at least appeared to want to keep quiet. As BH records him as saying to Pink 'I'll kick your damned ass' the response from Pink was 'If you do I'll send you to your friends in such a condition that they will not know you'.

BH met Jack Temple at 3.30 and they set off for Oldbury via Crown Point.

Copy of a letter from Rupert Jones, dated January 30th 1904:

‘... Thanks for the letter, and for seeing the MSS with it. Your correspondent Mr Larkby appears to be a better geological observer than many of the stone hunters.

I quite realise his excellent observations as being very important specially as to the scratches, which are often doubtful as to origin. They might be made in a partly frozen slush slipping down, That is if the ice held piece of flint slipping down on a harder piece of rock, or perhaps without the ice if the sludge was thick and¹⁹ and of course ice partly bringing up on stone and letting it down and again against a rough floor. But there is no glacier required. This would do too much stones in moving water do not scratch one another on anything done, even notch one another... Continued on the following page, right hand side.

P.153. A somewhat enigmatic entry about the footpath by Crown Point. BH notes that he does not want tramps, gypsies and foot? To come along that way, particularly at night.

Callow, the watchmaker is noted by Pink to have purchased a large map of the Court Lodge estate at the sale of the Court.

BH notes that someone in the village received the first prize for sight-reading. This probably relates to the original programme attached, which tells of a concert given by the Ightham Choral and Ladies Society ‘Owls’.

Continuation of the Rupert Jones letter from the previous page:

... on the beach by rolling.

When Mr. Larkby’s paper is printed, will you be so good as to ask him to give me one of the separate copies? I shall be much obliged to you and him.

I am tired of writing and do it and the thinking also very barely.

It is difficult to define the Eoliths age. Savages make them nowadays. I take it when they begun to work stone tools, after giving up the use of any natural form of the stone to the surfaces as may happen and some stone tool workers have always made and thrown away the imperfect specimens. They may be found with the other kinds. At many places in the world even the Chellean and Acheulian tools are found by the advanced citizens (as in S. Africa and Egypt) the simple modified flake remains in apparent contemporary state...

P.154. Conclusion of Rupert Jones’s letter: ‘Please excuse my scribbling on this. Yours Truly, T Rupert Jones’.

¹⁹ At this point BH, rather than the transcriber, has omitted a word that presumably he was unable to read in Professor Jones’ original letter

Sunday April 17th 1904. BH stayed at home all day on what he described as 'Very fine Spring day'. Potter called in and they had a long discussion on footpaths. There is very clearly an issue about footpaths at this time, as BH's references to the footpath by the Crown Point indicate.

Wednesday 20th April 1904. Another fine day two youngsters of the Cazelet family accompanied by their governess visited BH and he comments on their curiosity and intelligence.

There follows a commentary on a child?, which is largely illegible but an incident in which this child slapped her majesty in the face as she stooped to kiss him. [The Cazelet children or their governess may have related this tale to BH.]

Sunday 24th April 1904. BH out despite it being a gloomy day, with Mr Larkby and his brother. Basted Lane in the evening with Mr Larkby.

A copy of Herbertson's remarks to FJ Bennett on the valley near Malling. The dry valley by St Leonards is mentioned, as is the existence of springs lower down in this area.

P.158. Pages 155/6/7 have been omitted.

Sketch of the Malling valley.

An extract from Lyell's Students Manual edited by Professor Judd. On p 163 is a piece on the High Plateau Gravels and Loess in which eoliths and Prestwich are also noted.

P.159. Sunday May 1st, which BH notes was an ideal May Day, was spent copying Bennet's Shode papers till 11.30am after which he went to Basted Lane and High Field. Remarks on an infestation of some trees at Birds Hill Stile, and suggests the trees be grubbed up. Sketches the distribution of the infestation on the tree branches.

Visitors at 1pm, Mr Levine and Mr Griffin who were searching for *Equisiton maximus* and who were directed by BH to Basted. Despite going the wrong way, this gentleman found what he was looking for near Bourne farm. Also found other plant specimens such as *Cardamine amaria*²⁰ that BH had mistaken for water cress.

More from Lyell's work, this time p157, which also deals with chipped flints. This time they are noted to form implements of a very definite shape as well as showing some of the characteristics of the ruder implements. The flint used to make these implements is noted to be fairly flat and to serve a scraping purpose. The Tasmanians and other 'savage tribes' are mentioned as using similarly shaped stones and it is noted that they are found scattered all over the Plateau.

²⁰ Large bitter cress. A good indicator of groundwater levels

P.160. The extract from Lyell's work concludes in a couple of lines on right hand side of the page while the entry on plants from the previous is continued on the left hand side.

The *Nasturtium* is noted to be a type of watercress. Mrs H is not very well so BH chatted with the gentlemen till they left for Catford. More plants mentioned, most illegible but can make out *Rheum*, which the collector appeared to prize.

A letter from Jack who sent a lithographic copy of a letter from Lord Tennyson about a stove fit for a WC. BH says 'fancy the author of The Lotus Eaters and The Idylls of a King concerning himself about a stove fit for a WC!!!! Alas, how are the mighty fallen'. BH speculates that the poet might have composed his greatest works on his WC!!!! He then challenges the reader to improvise a rhyme on this theme.

Copy of a letter from AJ Herbertson to FJ Bennett, not dated:

'...Just a hurried line to thank you for your kind hospitality today and to say how very much I enjoyed and profited by our walks and talks.

I am sorry to have missed the Shode visit, as I consider it the most interesting valley in the south of England – a model of what the Americans would call an obsequant stream. As you know I believe the whole problem of drainage of the Downs and Weald of greatest significance as presenting a fairly well developed phase of a drainage system in a comparatively simple anticlinal region, where the problems must first be solved before we can advance far in our examinations...

P.161. Herbertson continued from the previous page:

... far in our explanation of the more complex drainage systems.

With you as with us here a thorough knowledge of the gravels and drifts is of fundamental importance, and I am glad to know that we shall soon have the precise information about the valley and Ightham area which is indispensable.

I am much obliged to you for showing me the peculiar dry valleys with the springs altering their character lower down. Some of the peculiarities are similar to those of our own b...s but the value of having part of the same valleys in the same rock, eroded by a surface stream, and p...? is difficult to exaggerate.

I must come again soon. What with Eoliths and drift valleys dry and wet, downs and vales you have a county as attractive to the geographer as to the geologists. Yours truly' AJ Herbertson.

Conclusion to the piece about Tennyson from the previous page with two verses of his poetry and comment.

P.162. Sunday May 8th 1904. Dull day. BH to Terry's Lodge to meet Pratt. It rained all day with low cloud. BH spent time writing Temple's notes from 7.30 till 12.

Sunday May 15th 1904. Perfect Spring weather, more like summer. BH can't resist indulging in a little *Corydalis claviculata* watching. Wrote long letters to Darbishire and Abbott.

Quotes Darwin: 'I look at the geological world as a history of the world imperfectly kept, and written in a charming dialect: if this history we possess the last volume alone, relating it only to other creatures. Of this volume here and there a short chapter has been presumed, and of each page only here and there a few lines'.

Original letter from WM Newton, 348/50 High Street, Chatham and dated 15th May 1904:

'... I had anticipated repeating the enjoyable visit, my Father and I paid you last Whitsun on the anniversary of the day this year. But I find this is not to be so owing to Mr Lewis Abbott of Hastings being likely to visit Dartford on Sunday next and probably stay over till Monday.

My Father is very anxious that Mr Abbott should see the characteristics peculiar to those found by you in the neighbourhood of Ightham are also found on these as shown you on the specimens I send.

They do not exist in great abundance, on the contrary they are rather rare but sufficient to show a continuity of purpose in their manufacture. The history of their having reached the light of day, is this- in short while?... the military activities commenced to construct a light railway from Old Brompton to the Downland forts, in doing so and in order to get a level, a short shallow cutting had to be made in the south west angle of the "Great Lines" in their cutting an old river bed was exposed in section the course having been from some higher ground in the neighbourhood of Gillingham and its confluence with the ancient Medway, somewhere near what is now Fort Amherst.

So that you see it ran in a direction at right angles to the railway cutting or geographically mainly from the north east to south west. The bed of course is now filled with gravely clay. In this there are chipped stones (Eoliths) I refer to.

The piece cut through is not very great and there does not appear any prospect of it being enlarged – but there is proof that it runs across the Great Lines...'.

The following, from the last page, appears to actually relate to the last line of the first page, which ends:

‘... Mr Abbott should see his remarkable collection of figure stones, which ?... ?... to be a proved fact of man’s artistic conception during the stone age. I am truly pleased of this owing to my esteemed father having worked so assiduously in gathering ?... in proof of his contention.

This is a digression and not the purpose of my writing you, which is to ask your opinion of the stone accompanying this note. It is one of several I have lately found on Chatham Lines all bearing a striking resemblance to your Eoliths’..

There follows an entry entitled ‘The Neolithic Settlement of Rosewood’ taken from some of FJ Bennett’s work. The possible semantic link between Rosewood and Raspit is considered. Water, which is a feature of the land near Raspit Hill, is also mentioned. Swallow holes also get a mention and this continues to p 163.

P.163. Sketch of the eoliths mentioned in WM Newtons’ letter, transcribed on previous page, the concluding part of the original of which has been pasted in on P.163. It continues with the geology of the area of the Chatham Great Lines. [Why BH separated this letter from Newton and pasted it in on two pages, is not clear.] He has sketched the strata of The Lines showing chalk at the base, bull-head to either side of the gravelly clay with alluvium on top of all.

The entry from the previous page, an extract of FJ Bennett’s work, is concluded on this page. In this, the intricate network of roads is noted and their relation to the (now no longer discernable) tumulus, is also commented upon. The close relation of the springs to the boundary of the Folkestone and the Hythe beds is noted.

An extract from Thackeray’s *Little Red Riding Hood* of 1867 is copied.

P.164. Clipping from a journal outlining the 9th annual meeting of the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies at Maidstone Museum (SEUSS).

Whit Sunday May 22nd 1904. A dull day during which BH had a ‘little roam’ and in the evening went with Ted and Agnes to Miss Bell’s, Oldbury, and Styants Bottom.

On Whit Monday, the 23rd May, BH, Agnes and Ted went to He...for Fusea (? A plant that bloomed at that time of the year)²¹. That evening, a little group went walking to many of the usual sites.

A short extract from Buckley’s *Short History of Natural Science*, p 64.

Copy of a letter from Dibley, dated 7th March 1904. He asks BH if the Ruskin Hall Society might visit him as part of their outing on July 9-10 that year. Continues to and concludes on p 165. Mr Dibley adds a PS to the effect that he hopes to visit BH in June before the outing in July.

²¹ It is suggested that this might be read Fuschia. BH possibly misspelt the name. It may not be a plant that he refers to here and the writing is so unclear that it is impossible to be certain about the object mentioned

P.165. Flyer of the 9th annual SEUSS held at Maidstone on June 9,10 and 11th 1904. Newspaper clipping from the *Daily Mail*, May 1905 about Cromwell's head.

P.166. Newspaper clipping reporting the Whitsuntide celebrations at Ightham. A poem about the May King.

Sunday May 29th 1904. BH spent time completing a series for display at the SEUSS. Hep and L...? visited at 10.30. Percy Martin's father visited at 3.30. BH and Mrs H ride round by New House farm. Small geological section sketch. This may be the feature referred to by BH adjacent to the newly erected, very impressive college at ?... BH notes lots of shells Cyc...? Helix. BH vows to visit this place again. In the evening he visited Court Lodge. Pasted pages from *Transactions of the Geological Society of South Africa* of a geological section and two eoliths from Johannesburg.

P.167. A clipping from *The Times* of Saturday 21st May 1904, in which the effect of radium upon the temperature of the earth is discussed. Professor Ernest Rutherford proposed a theory that the heat emanating from the centre of the Earth is due to the effects of this element rather, than as had previously believed, due solely to the hot, molten mass at its core.

A handwritten entry is adjacent, that has been copied from *The Times* of 21st May 1904 on the topic of the Earth's heat and chronology.

An extract from a the notes of Mr L... Chubs On April 5th ? year, in which one gentleman suggests to another that he should call in on BH at Ightham to see some of his celebrated flints.

Copy of a letter from Veysey of April 15th 1904. This letter is obviously in response to one BH wrote to him in which he comments on the difficulty he had in deciphering the handwriting. He thanks BH for the flints given to him and comments on the 'Palaeo delight' that is BH's garret. A little general chat before he again thanks BH and concludes the letter (on p168).

P.168. An original letter from AJ Herbertson, of the Geographical Association, dated 29th May 1904, asking BH if he would be prepared to attend the outing of the Association members to the Shode Valley on the 11th June 1904, for part of the day.

Part of the SEUSS flyer attached to which is an original letter from George Abbott, dated May 30th 1904:

'... I have been thinking you might like to write a notice for us to put up on the board at the Congress about visits to your house for inspection of eoliths. If sent to me at the museum by Monday night – I would get it fixed in a suitable place – I am staying here a short time to get as much rigour as I can for the work of the Congress. I shall be home again tomorrow night

Tuesday... Would you care to come over to the Mayors Reception? If so I will send you a ticket (free)'.

An original letter from Lewis Abbott, undated:

'Dear Ben, I have only time at the minute for a word or two. First I must say I think it kindness personified to have? Another to send Newton unfortunately he popped the letter? With his ?... and said "I will try to get through that when I have more fully recovered.

Not see if he'll a...? – you now know the way we work and you may well imagine how it glorified my poor soul to be able to tack on my early work at Crayford Erith. Green St Green with Ash Eynesford and dear old Chinhams.

I got out half a dozen times when the high ground and my nose knew precisely some of the places are I shall get the rest of the maps and file and colour. What a world that is at the mouth of the Darent. I will write you a lot about it later.

Nobody can speak there though till any have learned to walk on one plateau. How those valley gravels and hill gravels vary. I saw a gravel [on Dartford Heath that was nearly half chert rag and Ightham stone! ?... .

Now you ask my opinion on the figure stones in confidence. I will give it. First he has some stones which if they are genuine (that is not made by a workman recently) prove that early man did simulate man and animals by putting on the hundreds of taps with a stone, eyes, mouths and nostrils.

But these are altogether different from his 100,000 others. ?... so well known are his saucers, sponges frost broken ice cups? He has not yet learned to distinguish between frost flakes, frost and struck blows some of his are clearly frost bites. But he has boundless enthusiasm.

Little by little I shall make him realize the various pieces of nature and then he will weed out and some good may come of it. He is not likely to publish anything I think without he shows it true. And I shall try and keep the brake on. I would not say a word to chill his ardour.

I took him onto a Neolithic field and showed him the same things upon the plateau and ditto. Bye and bye I shall take him under a chalk cliff and even into a chalk pit and show him the ?heap he now cherishes. I shall also show him them in situ on the Bull head bed, but not just yet. I shall do it gradually. I am trying to impress upon him the value of geology and hope he will take it up seriously if he does not there will be little hope...'.

A loose A4 printed article entitled: 'The early flint implements from the Plateau of North Kent'.

The conclusion to the Voysey letter in which he tells BH how much he values the flint given to him. His gratitude is undoubted as is his belief in eoliths.

P.168. There are two pages numbered 168. A copy and an original of Bonney's letter to BH, dated 21st April 1904:

‘... I return with thanks the copies of drawings of the supposed Eoliths. They are remarkably well executed, but whether they prove or do not prove that they were fashioned by Man is another question. Into that I must at present decline to enter.

So much has to be done in the next two months that I have no time for letter writing except whatever what is absolutely necessary and I shall have to carry my studies further, as I hope to be able to do in the course of the summer before I can commit myself to any definite expression of opinion. I also return the card and copy of the manuscript which came after the ?... With many thanks. Very truly yours, FG Bonney’

There follows another letter from Bonney, dated April 18th 1904, apologising for keeping a set of eoliths for around 4 months. He says the delay was because he was out of the country.

P.169. Copy of a letter from Rudler, of 18 St George's Road, Kilburn:

‘...Please accept my thanks for your letter with the kind invitation to inspect your collection. I have often wished to do so, and my good friend Mr Lewis Abbott assured me that you would permit me to see your eoliths if down in the neighbourhood of Ightham.

Unfortunately I have not been in the neighbourhood for a long time, but I hope this summer to come down specially, or perhaps as you kindly suggest to run over from Maidstone. I am much more fully occupied than you perhaps think. At present I am still working daily at the Museum, and am lecturing in the evening 3 or 4 times a week. So that I never get to bed until one O'clock in the morning. But now that you have been so good as to suggest a visit, I shall certainly hope to avail myself of the privilege. You may remember that we met in London a few years back. With Kind regards. Faithfully yours, FW Rudler’.

Another Bonney letter, this time dated April 26th 1904:

‘...I am much obliged to you for your two letters with sketches. I believe that I apprehend the nature of the evidence which produces conviction in your mind as to the origin of the so-called Eoliths, but until I can do some more work in the field in verification (or the reverse) of some ideas which have occurred to me I can say no more than I have done and can do no more than thank you for the trouble you have taken to enable me to study the evidence. Whether at the end I find myself in the majority or the minority will not, I fear, count for very much with me. I am accustomed to gauge my own fact. Very truly yours, FJ Bonney’

P.170. June 5th 1904. BH and Mrs H out to Ash with Percy Martin on a fine day. BH notes the find of 'some spoil' from around Ash church, flakes and worked pebbles [probably a mixture of artefacts and eoliths). BH remarks on the brilliantly clear atmosphere, which he found 'grand'.

Sunday June 12th 1904: another fine summer's day. BH prepared the village hall the day before for the expected visit of the South London Geographic Association. Herbertson not able to attend so BH 'piloted' the party to Isles and to view Basted Mill pond'. Bennett came for the visit by train on which journey he had been accompanied by A..th, who BH says was evidently afraid to face the music. [BH not specific but it seems this gentleman was not an eolithophile.]

Another entry for this date mentions Whitaker and Bensted and Robarts.

There follows an extract of *The Times* review (not dated) of De Mortillet's work on the origins of the French. This encompasses the idea of a Miocene ape-like precursor to humanity in what is now France. Thenay flints are referred to.

P.171. An account of Whitaker's visit, which continues to p172 but is not dated. This was a visit that involved quite a lot of walking as well as a visit to BH's museum, with which, it seems, Whitaker was much impressed. BH showed Whitaker a range of stones, some of which were clearly eoliths but which, BH reports, Whitaker accepted, and others, which are more likely to have been artefacts. He specifically mentions a large anvil stone, to which Whitaker advised BH to give a place of honour. [This stone may well be the one currently given a place of honour by Mr David Baldock, of Basted who has a collection of BH's eoliths, tools and sketches.]

They then inspected the so-called 'Iron dolly' (an invention of BH's father-in-law, Mr Biggs, who mined the ironstone of Oldbury) used for macadamising roads, [among which was the Old Kent Road, in London). BH, who must have overwhelmed Whitaker, then showed him a vast series of Body Stones and other eoliths arranged in the hall in preparation for the Geological Associations visit. On viewing the 'beauty from Ash' Whitaker is said to have become eloquent, suggesting that BH should show this specimen to Hawarth for he was said to accept nothing as a specimen from a glacial period. Continued on p 172

An entry about Raspit Hill beacon. BH has drawn a map of other beacon sites from several points on the compass. He has copied this from a work by Sir William Bourke who was Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth 1st.

P.172. Continuation of the account of Whitaker's visit. BH is urged to show Hawarth his striated specimen. At the Rock shelters, they had a photograph taken by Robarts after which they went across the fields to R...ts. This impressed Whitaker who was reluctant to leave and where, under the giant beeches, they ate their sandwiches. After refreshment they went on to Patch Grove and then Styants Bottom. They saw a pit that proved so interesting that Robarts was called in to photograph it. They passed Caesar's Well and continued on to the Waterflash where the pathway was obstructed. Whitaker, advised him to fight the

obstruction to the footpath saying that they were mapping footpaths in the Croydon district. They then went on via Middle Wood rocks, rampart and fissure and back to the station.

On the way there they talked about Mackin, Whitly, Lubbock and Well Hill. Whitaker had not visited some of these places for 20 years.

An extract from Lambarde's *Perambulations* which mentions St Clere, a place beloved of BH, as well as the home of the branch of the Lambarde family from Sevenoaks.

P.173. An entry entitled 'Translation of Rutot's paper':

'Mons Rutot has lately received a visit from Dr Klaatsch, who charmed with what he had seen of Brussels, has since then visited Puy Courney, St Prest and the chalk Plateau of Kent.

In these different places, Dr Klaatsch has collected a considerable number of specimens which he has presented to Berlin. It is generally admitted that though the flints forming this collection are genuine, including those of the Upper Miocene.

Notwithstanding the contrary opinions of many Palaeontologists²², it seems certain to Mons Rutot that an erroneous gap, comprising the whole middle and lower Tertiary period, exists between the skills of the Pliocene age of Trinil (Java) and the skills of Neanderthal of Spy and Krapsina which Mon Rutot considers as E...? (Upper Quaternary).

Perhaps it will be possible to fill this gap by some skulls found in England, of which very little notice has been taken hitherto.

When Dr Klaatsch, Professor of the University of Heidelberg, visited England lately, M Rutot told him of the existence of interesting human relics in the possession of Mr Elliott and Mr Lewis Abbott.

In 1888 Mr R Elliott discovered at Galley Hill, (near Northfleet) east of London on the Thames) in a magnificent layer of ?.... an entire human skeleton which was mentioned a long time afterwards by EJ Newton.

Sir John Evans does not vouch for the genuineness of the discovery, but Professor Klaatsch, who has recently seen these relics, is inclined to admit them as genuine. According to this learned German Professor, this skull would belong...

P.174. Continuation of Rutot's paper:

... to a race nearly allied to that of Neanderthal but not quite the same. Possibly he may publish an article on this interesting subject.

²² BH has actually spelt this 'Palaeologists'

On the other hand Mr Lewis Abbott who has also discovered a skull in a crevice of the chalk hill of Ash, which may according to Dr Klaatsch, would belong to the same race as the skeleton of Galley Hill. This relic has been investigated by Dr Garson but his article has not yet appeared.

Recently Mr Lewis Abbott has written to me concerning a recent discovery by a friend of his but I have no accurate details.

Let us hope that among these naturals some genuine ones will be found of a well authenticated period, enabling us to fill a considerable gap in our knowledge of the Palaeolithic races’.

A letter of reply from Dr Lorenz, promising to come to see BH’s collection as soon as possible, though he explains that he is no expert.

A copy of a piece on prismatic flints by Griffon, undated:

‘I fear some which have gone about have been faked. In the face of continued opposition in high quarters it behoves us to be very careful in admitting every queerly shaped old stone as a hand wrought implement.

A friend of mine at Farnborough has a large collection of stones of various eras. Amongst them are two or three large prismatic flints which Lord Avebury found are eos.

I have examined them carefully with a lens and am quite satisfied that they are first fractured prismatic stones. There are thousands of them on arable land about Down , Chelsfield and...

P.175. Continued from the previous page:

... Lord Avebury good naturedly told the man what he knew he would please him.

But when these stones are trotted out and exhibited as eos on Lord Avebury’s authority to sceptical persons who know a little about worked stones, they are incredulous and then go to others and throw discredit on the whole thing’.

An entry entitled ‘Pig nuts. Earth Nuts. Shakespeare once mentioned pig nuts in the Tempest, 17 which BH quotes.

Dated June 19th 1904. An original letter from Clements Dowling and Co. The signatory is JM Newton (many of whose figure stones are in the Dartford Museum). It concerns figure stones, this gentleman’s passion in life. He thanks BH for his letter about the antiquity of man and for the enclosures, which he does not specify but which are almost certainly stones.

He then goes on, in a somewhat rapturous tone, to discuss figure stones. He refers to uniformitarianism and cataclysmic natural forces that have shaped the world. He also refers to the Sphinx as 'little more than a figure stone'!

A clipping from a journal, not specified, about Stonehenge and the precarious state of the trilithons. One had fallen recently, possibly after a gale on December 30th 1903. It is noted that the last recorded falling of a stone was on January 3rd 1797.

P.176. BH gives an account of his eoliths exhibited at the SEUSS held at Rochester 1899. He discusses the pivotal role that the work undertaken by the Water Company in unearthing many eoliths, discovered by sharp-eyed workmen, and also those found in pits on Terry's Lodge, excavated by Mr FJ Bennett and himself. He also mentions the re-opening of a pit at Parsonage Farm, Mr Pink the owner having given permission. He notes that at high levels, 760 ft OD, only eoliths were found but that at Parsonage Farm Professor Rupert Jones found a palaeolith which was thought to represent progression from the Eolithic period to the Palaeolithic. He then discusses individual eoliths of which 6 and 9 are noted to show bulbs of percussion. Number 3 bears a double bulb.

P.177. newspaper clippings one of which reviews Osmund Fisher's paper on the Elephant Trench at Dewlish. Another gives an account of the London Geologists Association's trip to North Kent under the direction of Mr FJ Bennett. The final cutting gives an account of SEUSS congress at Maidstone on June 9,10,11th at Maidstone. These continue top.178.

P.178. FJ Bennett's account of the Medway megaliths. Also attached is what appears to be additional notes, handwritten by FJ Bennett, about the megaliths. Another clipping comments on the extra exhibits at the museum to commemorate the congress, of course BH's eoliths are mentioned and are noted to figure largely in the exhibition.

P.179. A newspaper clipping about the English Church Union, Bromley branch meeting held on June 4th.

Copy of a letter from Sir Archibald Geikie to Larkby. Dated 17th June 1904:

'... Your letter of the 8th inst and its accompanying specimens duly reached me but I have been until now prevented from replying.

The problem in the geology of the south of England is more difficult than that of the high level gravels. I have no doubt that in many of them ice actions has been concerned. The striae on your specimens may be partly due to internal movements in the gravel beds, but most of them seem to be of glacial origins.

They are not however, those of an ice sheet. Their abundance, shortness and great variety of direction show that they were not fixed persistently in a thick body of ice, but must have been held rather loosely and frequently shifted their position.

Somewhat similar kinds of striae may occasionally be picked up among the lateral remains of a glacier, but most probably...

P.180. Geikie continued:

... your flints were carried along in river ice, and were frequently melted out and refrozen, so they were rasped along the bed and banks of the river.

Without personal knowledge of the gravel you describe I should not like to venture even to guess at the history of its interesting gravel you describe.

There can be no doubt that during the Ice Age when most of these islands were deeply buried under snow and ice the southern contours, though not overspread by the giant ice sheet, could not have escaped from the efforts of the rigorous climate.

We should therefore be prepared to find various traces of the arctic conditions, in forms different from those that prevail on what are usually called the "glacial ?..." The glaciation of the south of England belongs to another type which is less fully understood. I return your specimens herewith. Yours Faithfully, Archibald Geikie'

Sunday June 19th 1904. A grey sky noted.

A letter from Smith Woodward. BH met him at the top of Dance hill, which is at the top of Isles' and then went on to Basted. After this excursion they looked at some sets of body stones that he mentions as being photographed for a lantern slide show.

Copy of the letter from Smith Woodward, dated June 18th 1904 from the Natural History Museum asking BH if he can call upon him on Sunday to see the implements (eoliths). Says they are ready to take a walk (this may have been the penalty for visiting BH, or the lure to get him to agree to a visit!)

P. 181. Original letter from the 'Forest Ramblers', dated June 14th 1904. In it, the Honorary Secretary Mr JH Porter, writes to thank BH for the very public spirited and valuable day spent with him.

Another original, but typewritten letter from Lawrence Chubb, Secretary of the same organisation, also thanking BH for the success and pleasure of the day. BH gives an account of their day, which involved a visit to Ightham Mote via Rosewood. The visit also took in Middle wood rocks and Mount Pleasant. Later that day Hugh Knight called on BH to tell him that he had been turned back whilst walking by the Fish Pond. This is no doubt included as part of the effort to maintain public footpaths. A letter was sent to Mr Chubb, who was secretary of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Committee.

A short entry of six lines entitled 'Dav... Life' page 144 , Volume 11 in which the writer says he finds comfort thinking about the future. Largely indecipherable but clearly about BH and his finds and their meaning.

P.183. p. 182 has been missed out. Two rather lovely sketches, one of a tree trunk, blown over and caught in the branches of another tree. It is entitled 'Well caught' The second sketch is of a round house in a hollow in Wilderness [? Park in Sevenoaks], a 'Dry mound'.

A reprint from the *South Eastern Gazette* of the paper read by FJ Bennett at SEUSS, with FJ Bennett's handwritten comments in the margin, mostly regarding the meridional lines.

P.184. An entry about Plat Farm and Mr Roberts. The snippet refers to a photograph in which 'WW' was cut out of the photograph. Below this is a poem about WW dated June 27th 1904.

A two-line entry about people who sit still in easy chairs.

A quote from *Darwin's Life*: 'You do me injustice when you think that I work for fame; I value it to a certain extent: but I now myself, I work from a set of instructi(ons) to try to work out (the) truth' p.151 Vol 11. 'My father used to believe largely in an old saying that, if a man... [the rest of this quote is largely unreadable but as it can be found in the original on p 167, I shall not wrestle further with BH's handwriting. There is yet one more quote from p 181, in an equally unreadable hand, which I shall not translate]

P.185. An outing of some of the members from the Anthropological Institute to Rochester, Kits Coty and Maidstone on July 8th 1904. They were guided around Maidstone Museum by the Curator, Mr Allchin.

Small clipping on the use of the 25 inch ordnance map, by Mr. FJ Bennett. Also a tiny clipping re: the above visit, which, it was deemed, would bring Maidstone to the fore of the scientific world.

An original printed article about the use of the 25 inch ordnance map for estate and agricultural purposes.

P.186. An entry headed 'Rhinoceros' but actually a letter from ET Newton, dated July 2nd 1904: '... Very many thanks for sending the Ightham fissure bone for me to see. One never knows what may turn up. I believe this to be the shin- bone of a rhinoceros , but only a broken piece of it. It is very good of you to think of getting it for us; but I don't particularly desire it as we already have here the form represented.

I congratulate you on the interest that is being shown in the Plateau implements. Very kind regards to self and Mrs Harrison...'

The letter was delivered to BH by Mr Shilling. Original copy of the above Newton letter.

Original letter from E. Roy Lankester. Dated June 30th ?1904:

‘... I have a fancy that I should like to spend a Saturday and Sunday at Ightham this summer. In order to see myself the place of the eoliths and perhaps find some.

Will you tell me to which station one books, whether there is a good ?... and whether supposing you were to be kind enough to act as guide – there would be a chance of my finding myself some of the eoliths.

I believe there is an old manor house of interest to be seen at Ightham is there not? I am , my dear Sir. Yours faithfully, E Roy Lankester’.

Short letter from Mr Hill of Sevenoaks and dated July 1st 1904 in which the writer informs BH of dispatches from Ightham WB and Ightham Post Office.

An entry copied from *On Caves and fissures* p 313. It records of the Rocks six miles from St Asaphs the Carboniferous limestone is described. It relates to the cave around Cefn. This entry attributes the origin of these caves to the action of water.

P.187. Sunday July 3rd, 1904. The weather changes from bright to stuffy. Larkby in Ightham to take photographs. BH particularly liked the photo of rain drops on water with the consequent circular ripples.

In the evening they went to Oldbury and Fish Ponds and on to Ivy Hatch. BH notes a sighting of *Orchis maculata*.²³

Copy of a letter from Rutot to BH, dated 25th July 1904:

‘... I have received your letter and also the packet of eoliths which you gave Mr Martin for me. These eoliths interest me very much and I thank you sincerely for them.

I have distributed the prospectus of your series of sets of Kent Plateau Eoliths at the Senet d’Anthropologie du Brussells and in various museums, but I have always received the same answer that the originals or good casts are preferred as drawings do not sufficiently record the appearance of the objects. I find the drawings are not much appreciated on the continent.

I am sending you my great work on *the Prehistory of Central Europe*. You will see that I render justice to your fine discoveries...

P.188. Rutot continued:

... I have other works that I will send you as soon as they are published. I also expected to see Mr Whitaker in Brussels, but I suppose he could not

²³ Now known as *Dactylorhiza maculata*. The heath, or moorland spotted orchid

leave the waterworks engineer. With Kind regards. Yours very sincerely, A Rutot'

Newspaper clipping re: a visit to Cuxton and Halling by the London Geologists Association, headed by Dr Herbertson, reader in Geography at Oxford. Mr FJ Bennett is mentioned, as is BH and his eoliths. A passage from Lord Avebury's *Prehistoric Times* is quoted in relation to eoliths. The often savage nature of the debate as to their authenticity is gently captured by Lubbock in this extract.

Copy of a letter from Smith Woodward and dated June? 24th 1904: '... I am very sorry I am compelled to return the eoliths. I shewed them to Sir John Evans this morning, and he thinks we are scarcely justified in purchasing more as the Trustees would ask his opinion and be guided by it and if I make the recommendation it would be unwise for me to offer the collection...'

P. 189. Saturday June 9th 1904. The Maidstone Natural History Society held a demonstration in the (?Ightham) village hall on a hot, cloudless day. BH records that the Ruskin College Society and cooperative Holiday Association were down for the day and were conducted to various places by Mr Dibley with Mr Bennett conducting the Maidstone visitors to places of interest.

Sunday the 10th June also dawned hot and cloudless, though there was a cold east wind that tempered these conditions. BH and Mr Dibley awaited their visitors in BH's garden. They first visited the church and the demonstration in the village hall from where they went to places such as Raspit Hill and Fish Ponds.

A letter from Mr Stewart E...? ?... was read and provoked much laughter. BH mentions intoxication resulting from too much Methaglin and Huckleberry wine.

The 'Eolithic Philosophy'²⁴ must also have been read out. I think BH probably enjoyed himself a lot and when he wrote the original entry may have had a little too much Methaglin to give a readily intelligible account of this weekend. The whole mood is one of great jollification].²⁵

P.190. A reference to Smith Woodward, with the news that he intended writing to BH to order a set for the university of California.[he means either just eoliths or eoliths and palaeoliths]. He also thanks BH for an interesting MS, which he returned and promised to send a diagram in the following days.

Two newspaper clippings re: a 'Conversazione and presentation to Miss Bryant...' of the Ightham Choral Society. The second relates the Co-operative Holidays Association outing to Ightham (already noted in this transcription).

²⁴ For the full text of the Eolithic Philosophy see *Harrison of Ightham* p 241

²⁵ Methaglin is a honey-based alcoholic beverage, also known as mead, and huckleberries are wild blueberries that grow abundantly on Oldbury Hill

A list of flora, which starts with geological formations, that is upper greensand and chalk. The snake's heart plant is illustrated.²⁶

P.191. Copy of a letter from Mr James, dated 11th July 1904:

‘... I write to tender my personal thanks for your very great kindness to the members of the party who had the great delight of meeting you this weekend.

I really do not know how to repay the great kindness you showed to all those present, and the amount of time, trouble and expense which the visit must have occasioned.

All who were present had a most delightful time, and though most of them have visited most of the beauty spots, and interesting localities (historical, geological or otherwise) in the British Isles and several places on the continent, they all seemed to come away from Ightham with the same idea in their mind – “This is a most interesting and enjoyable holiday I have spent...”. Several of the party expressed themselves in these similar words as we were rushing along to London, and the others I suppose felt so much that they knew not how to adequately express their thoughts in words.

You have made 25 willing converts on the spot, and not merely made by pressure... for I feel sure they are so deeply interested in your work that they will use every endeavour to spread the “light”. And, more than this you have not merely won their support... regarding the antiquity of man, but you have made twenty five personal friends. We shall not forget our visit to Ightham’.

An original copy of *The Rambler* of July 1904, Vol.11; No.8. in which an amusing article about the Co-op members holiday in Ightham appears, as well as a copy of Edward Harrison's ‘Eolithic Philosophy’.

P.192. On Saturday July 30th 1904, BH hosted the Rochester Natural History Society. The weather was not particularly conducive, so BH exhibited his stones on the shop counter and in his museum.

Sunday was altogether different so BH, Ted and Agnes took a trip to Terry's Lodge. In the evening they went to Seven Wents where BH notes, they found Dodder.²⁷

²⁶ The sketch suggests that the plant referred to is now known as the snake's head fritillary or *Fritillaria meleagris*.

²⁷ *Cuscuta epithymum*, which belongs to the Morning Glory family and has been used in traditional medicine to treat a number of conditions, including those of the liver and kidneys. It is known as ‘hellweed’ and ‘devil's guts’ because of the effects of its strangling stems on crops.

On the 1st August, Bank Holiday, BH went with Kennard and his wife to Kemsing where they visited a pit, a hill fort. Hot day, 79 degrees F. in the shade. The afternoon was sultry but the threatened storm passed away to the south east.

Mentions an article in *The North American Review* which is about 'The New Hell', by Father Taylor, an American gentleman of the cloth.

A quote from Emerson about the length of eternity.

A quote from Windle's classification of earthworks (Bertram C Windle).²⁸[The publication to which BH refers is BCW's 1904, *Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England* and page 206 certainly does deal with earthworks].

P.193. Weather report, BH clearly finds the very high temperatures, up to 83 degrees F rather too much for him, but luckily he had a copy of Haddon's paper on rude implements so he stayed at home copying sections of this.

On Sunday 24th July after the intense heat clouds promised rain... but none fell and BH took a walk to Basted Lane. He notes a motor accident in which no one was injured. [An interesting observation which must have been a talking point as cars were such a rarity at that time.] Apparently the steering rod broke whilst the car was attempting to navigate around something.

Goes on to mention a moated round structure. This is a continuation of the entry on prehistoric earthworks. He also mentions the difference between camps and oppida and notes that such phenomena have been imperfectly investigated.

P.194. The temperature up to 86 degrees F.

Notes the names of four cyclists or 'Bikists') who visited Exedown on August 7th 1904. One was English, one Spanish, One German and the other Scottish.

On Sunday August 7th 1904 BH received a letter from Mr Collett about a pit, which prompted Potter and he to walk to the site. He met Mr Hickmott and a friend biking up to the pit.

Original cover from *The Wide World* magazine, with a lovely picture of Mr Harry De Windt, all dressed up in Eskimo gear. A nice reference here to a trip *Through Unknown Abyssinia* by Captain GH Powell-Cotton [whose Museum in Quex Park, Kent, remains to this day].

More about hill camps and some notes on Windle by Blackmore, to whom the former had paid two visits. Blackmore took it upon himself to 'coach him up on eos with the result you see in his book. He was very fair in taking up the endeavour and with an open mind on the subject, so there was really no difficulty'.

²⁸ British by birth but settled in Canada where he became a Professor of history

P.195. A newspaper clipping re: Rochester Naturalists Club and their trip to Ightham. Wrotham Hill is given a special mention as it is noted to be botanically very rich. BH is noted to be a man of 'unbounded enthusiasm'.

A five-line entry on Raspit Hill, by Russell Larkby. What he saw however is not clear as the writing is illegible.

A continuation of Blackmore's comments on Windle and his 1904 work in which he suggests that the work will prove to be of future value though it omits any mention of the work done in Belgium by Rutot.

An extract from Sir John Evans remarks on the eos and pals from Ash:

'The other specimens are interesting as coming from so high a level. There are one or two which I think every one would admit in being Palaeolithic though others I presume found in the same beds, are of very doubtful character. It is hard to say whether the apparent striae on some of these are really scratches'.

P.196. An entry about Clodd's visit. [Edward Clodd was quite prominent in the world of human antiquity at this time. He visited BH several times and actually wrote a memoir on the life of Grant Allen].

Tuesday August 19th 1904. BH met Clodd from the 3.58 train in the trap. They visited Town House and also spent a few minutes inspecting implements at BH's. They then had tea and an interesting chat before departing with Agnes, to the pit. Potter's man met them there.

BH mentions the find of a 'meso – white'. BH asked one of the men where they found this artefact and Mr Clodd explained that Sir Mark Collett's steward had asked the man to 'plant' the artefact so BH would find it.

Whilst waiting on the station with Clodd, on his departure, they talked about Huxley, ER Lankester, Haddon, Grant Allen and Evans. Some discussion too about miracle plays and the Virgin Mary... continued on p 197 left hand page.

A continuation of the Evans piece from the previous page:

'...of whatever origin are caused by some internal structure of the flint. If really scratches it must be born in mind that they may well be due to other causes than glacial action.

While on this point I may tell you that at the Cambridge meeting of the British Association there will be exhibited some Palaeolithic implements from a fluviatile or lacustrine bed, above the chalky boulder clay which still shows some of the original crust of the flints found which may be man made: and in this crust there are evident glacial strata. The implements are therefore post-glacial if we take the chalky boulder clay as the characteristic of the glacial period.

You have collected a good deal of interest. As to the recent use of stone scrapers in Queensland and else where as instruments, take the Roman Strigil. If the eolith...

P.197. Evans continued, right –hand side of the page:

... flints were used for such purposes, the arms and legs seem to have been small if they fitted them– I will not however speculate – but remain Yours faithfully, John Evans’.

‘. Continuation of the Clodd entry from the previous page: ... before the virgin was born...’ This continues in a somewhat rambling and incoherent manner touching on the work and handwriting of Grant Allen, virtually unchanged over 30 years, and Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*... Continues to p 198.

BH has superimposed the outline of a large palaeolith on this page.

An entry re: one of BH’s ancestors Thomas Harrison of Bessel’s Green, who died June 16th 1766 aged 72 years and who was a Pastor. He was interred with his wife Ann who died in 1748 aged 66 years.

P.198. A letter from Clodd sent from Saville Court, 107 Picadilly in which he discusses a possible visit and how difficult it is for him to find time from his duties to make such a visit. Proposes the following Tuesday arriving by train at 3.58.

He says he is in agreement with those who believe eoliths to be the result of human agency and comments that Read makes a cogent argument on p 10 of the British Museum publication *Guide to the Stone Age* which views Dr Windle endorsed.

On the left-hand page the Clodd entry from the previous two pages continues and concludes. He mentions the reform to the rules for the election of the President of the Royal Society and notes that Sir John Evans, a difficult man to work with, was the then encumbant who, under the new rules was not re-elected. D...ship resigned‘in a tiff’. Mentions his friend Cotton [possibly Powell-Cotton] a member of the Egyptian Exploration [Expedition]. Also makes some rather unpleasant, and racist, remarks about Sir John Evans.

A copy of a letter from Clodd dated 4th August 1904 in which he asks if it is convenient for him to visit the pit [no date given] arriving on the 2.37 from St Pauls arriving at Wrotham at 3.58. His departure for Victoria is planned for the eight minutes past seven that evening. He supports eoliths as the products of human agency saying that Read puts the argument for most cogently on p 10 of his *British Museum Guide to the Stone Age*. It is with satisfaction that he notes Dr Windle’s support for this in his book.

P 199. Sunday August 14th 1904. A gale from the south-west but despite this BH spent an hour at the pit where he found about 16 eoliths. Reckoned that between 400 – 500 stones with evidence of human work have come from that pit and that

5% of the stones from there [possibly means generally] will have been worked. Observes interesting features above the chalk pit and comments on the possible drainage. Notes too that Potter has cut a path across the old pit and that the talus from this terrace showed many ochreous stones, some of which were worked.

The concluding part of the letter from Mr Clodd from the previous page in which he thanks BH for his appreciation of his [Clodd's] book.

Copy of a letter from Ray Lankester, dated August 14th 1904:

‘... I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have so kindly taken about my proposed visit to Ightham and I have been too busy and unwell to come and I go abroad at once for rest. But the visit is only postponed. I hope to make it in the beginning October and I shall write to you again then. Believe me with many thanks. Very truly yours E Roy Lankester’

P.200. Sunday August 21st 1904. Weather report, close but no rain followed by an entry about a recent find from the drift, which was sketched, sent off and exhibited the following day.

Small newspaper /book clipping with a mention of Parnell.

Copy of a letter from Freckleton, dated February 1894:

‘... I have always considered myself as especially fortunate in having been introduced to you some time ago by my friend Mr Abbott. As you have thrown for me by your words, and the magnificent suite of Palaeolithic weapons which you have shown me, a new light upon problems which have puzzled me for more than a quarter of a century.

When I first took up (the) anthropology of prehistoric men as a serious study under Pengelly now guided by Sir Charles Lyell and the earlier work of Professor Prestwich, I soon felt that we then lacked the material for pushing the argument to its logical conclusion and getting anywhere near the bottom of the problems.

Since 25 years ago I felt sure that men existed in the Tertiary era, and said so in a lecture at Plymouth as far back as that for which I was strongly opposed. I remember being asked afterwards how long... Continued on the right hand side of the page on p 201.

P.201. Sunday August 28th 1904. Daughter returned from Wales [Elsie] and Mrs H ill the following day. Doctor visited. BH walked to Mr Mist's. Very hot. Mrs H continued to feel ill.

Sunday September 5th 1904. BH visited Potter on what was a fine day, to get Jenkins his apples. BH met Percy Martin. In the evening he went to Fish Ponds and read Huxley's papers. Mrs H a little better.

Freckleton continued:

...I supposed man had been upon the earth? I found I could not tell and dare not even make a guess in years, but if my question would wait a figure of 1 at one end of the school room wall. I would follow it with ciphers to the other end he might be somewhere near the marker for which I was laughed at and much execrated.

I have always been somewhat impatient of the slowness and ultra conservatism of Sir John Evans and his school, and have been convinced for some time that it has been hindering progress: and I have felt that the whole question and the right spirit in which to pursue it lay with Professor Prestwich and his party, but I did not know till Mr Abbott told me, how much the Professor, and indeed the whole discussion had been indebted to your quiet, unassuming and persistent labours for so many years.

Never had I realised until I knew you how great was the interval between the Plateau men and their works and the men and their tools, which we class generally as Palaeolithic.

So it is that I have to thank you for... Continued on p 202

P.202. An entry about Newton's visit to Dr Blackmore of Salisbury. Blackmore surprised Newton, having had contact with Boucher de Perthes on the subject of Eoliths. Mentions that they found a stone in the shape of a fish, which they gave to the geologists.

On Sunday September 11th 1904, BH notes that Mrs Harrison remained bed-bound. This did not stop him meeting up with Mr and Mrs Abbott and Mr and Mrs Henderson and their two boys at Saxby's where they found some fossils in the gault clay. Cold east wind followed by gales.

Freckleton continued:

'... many things not least for a new light and impetus in this most interesting study.

You know that I have a busy and somewhat restricted professional life, but I am always teaching and lecturing and preaching and talking in one way or the other: and I (am) delighted to follow the profession of Socrates who said that he followed the same profession as his mother who was a midwife, and that his delight was to deliver fair youngsters who were big with a desire for knowledge.

So it came about that I have but little time for hunting or collecting, but I have good and constant opportunities of disseminating whatever I may know and this has given me the privilege and honour of starting in life some 4 -5 young men who now become very good scientific men and are now doing good original work, and enlarging the boundaries of scientific knowledge. I have just left London where I have lived for nearly 20 years and have come to reside here in Northampton, where I have around...

Continues on the right-hand side of the following page.

P.203. A quote from ?...’s notebook ‘Large are the treasures of oblivion’. Dated 14th September 1904.

A review in *Man*, of Windle’s 1904 book on the archaeology of England. It is critical of Windle’s acceptance of eoliths.

Freckleton Continued:

‘... me a lot of keen intelligent young men and women, many of whom are hungry for knowledge, especially real knowledge of facts: I have no doubt that I shall also quickly get into fresh scientific ?... as there is here, and I want to see what can be done to forward the growing pearls of knowledge in [the] science of man which I believe to be with you and the few who think and work with you.

Why am I saying all this to you? Because I want you to help me as you can if you will. I want to write a short course of lectures on the subject for use during the coming winter, both to coordinate my own knowledge upon it and to persuade others and to work in ?.. of [the] ?possible.

What I need is a good atypical set of Plateau implements as my means will allow me to get. I do not want to borrow for I should have a standing and permanent use for them. I just mentioned it to you last week when I saw you...

Continued on the right-hand side of p 204

BH has sketched two eoliths over the entry

P.204. An entry entitled: ‘Nest Building Swallow’. This entry serves to illustrate BH’s eclectic interests.

Freckleton continued:

...what I ask now is can you and will you supply me with what your own judgement tells you will serve the purpose I want. If you write I shall be very glad and thankful and will remit the cost as soon as they arrive.

It would especially oblige me if you would attend to this at your earliest convenience as I want to get the work done in the main before I go away on my summer holiday.

With many thanks for past kindness, and with kind regards to yourself and Mrs Harrison, and a kiss for Elsie. I am most faithfully yours, J W Freckleton’

An entry defining the drift: 'With the late Mr Strickland I regard the term Drift, to denote the superficial accumulations of transported materials, which are so ?... that they cannot have been produced by the tranquil course which are in ... operations'

P.205. A poem entitled 'The Dog Days'²⁹. It is about eoliths, disbelief and the fortitude of those proposing the theory of man's greater antiquity. The heat of August being a metaphor for the, rather sultry and unbearable, heat of the debate about eoliths.

P.206. Original letter from a Mr Tregeskis, a London dealer in antiquities and certainly lithics, since he declines to buy any more eoliths having been unable to sell those he bought previously.

Sunday September 18th 1904. A fine day with an east wind which saw Mrs Harrison no better. Reading Wallace's *Island Life*. BH again puts the same date in his notebook and records that Mrs Harrison was in great pain and 'very, very ill'. The nurse is brought in to see her and BH records just how attentive she was.

An entry about Mr Gladstone who, it seems, was very influenced by the opinions of others.

Copy of part of a letter from Mr Darbishire who thanks BH for his letter and also Mr Kennard's, noting what a valuable record of old fights they are. He refers to Evans and Dawkins as 'old pagans'.

P.207. The names of Dr Lorenz and Dr Paulas, the University of Berlin.

An entry re: South African geology, taken from the *Geological Magazine* September 1904. Dr Johnson, is noted to have observed some implementiferous gravel in the area of Johannesburg. The implements are identified as specimens from the Eolithic, Palaeolithic and Neolithic. The Bezuidenhout valley drift is compared with the drift at Rudeskop. Timescales are briefly discussed.

In a hand other than BHs, an original note comments on the criticism by Professor Rhumbler of Professor Klaatsche's opinion that human's were present in Europe during the Tertiary period.

An entry that records Abbot's thoughts on Darbishire, dated 19th August 1904:

'My Dear Ben, For everything I have been absolutely disqualified. All day since I opened your letter. What on earth does it mean?!!!! Do you mean to tell me Mr Daribishire is not dead?

²⁹ The dog days of summer are usually taken to mean the hot and sultry times of July and August that coincide with the heliacal rising of the dog star in the constellation of Sirius

I can assure you that at the time of his “death” there were several mentions of him that I read. Did I not send you one that was in one of the ... papers? (no) There must be two Darbishires.

One of my Manchester friends who knew that I knew him sent me a local paper recording his death, but I am so mystified that I can neither think, remember nor anything else.

Yes, it was he who brought the eoliths. I saw him at the sale and he afterwards wrote and told me so. He wrote and asked me if I would give him any particulars of the ?... work done by G Freckleton as he was... continued on the right-hand side of the following page

P.208. Abbott on Darbshire continued:

... going to write something about him. I am not sure if I sent him these but I know I looked them up and then I heard of his death! He used to be writing continually to me. I will look it up and see when I had my last letter from him - enclosed from friend JWF letters returned. Lewis Abbott’.

Sunday September 25th 1904. A dull day initially but the sun broke through. Elsie was at home and they took a walk together, BH with the intention of tiring himself.

Prompted by the fact that Evans had found a pal in the field next to Four Wents, BH went searching and of course found many artefacts. He refers to the difficulty of mobilising his wife [he refers to her as Emmie, she was Emily Rebecca]. Describes it as a ‘trying task’.

BH says that he had such a restless night on the 26th September 1904 that he took two cups of coffee at 5 (am).

An entry copied from the work of another person and which describes the entry into a cave in the Livingstone hills and is sketched showing the entrance and the waterfall encountered in the cave. It is signed ERA.

P.209. September 27th 1904. Another fine day. A visit from Mr Snowdon Ward. Photographs taken (3) at the Rock shelters. Bennett called at 4.30. Dr Conn arrived by the 5pm train. Notes the death of Mrs Bennett of Down.

A note from Willie Jenkins expressing his sorrow at this sad news, and of Emily’s (he refers to her as ‘Aunt Emily’) illness. He says this latter news is very sad, especially in one who has always been so willing to assist the sick and dying. The nature of her present helplessness he found particularly sad and he enjoins BH to ‘...be kind to her after all she has done for us in the past’.

Copy of a letter from Clodd, dated 19th August 1904:

‘Dear Mr Harrison, Returning the other memoranda sent by you, I herewith return the three papers which you have been good enough to send me.

The scepticism in some quarters as to the artificial work on the eoliths seems now to partake of the nature of obstinacy, and reluctance to admit fallibility of judgment. C... is ever commendable but must, like other virtues, it may turn to excess.

However you may rest happy on the assurance that the recognition of the significance of your finds of rudely worked flints in deposits anterior to the present river systems comes from no mean authorities.

Let the doubters examine their opinions in case 106 [at the] British Museum Prehistory Department. Yours Faithfully, E Clodd'.

P.210. Sunday October 10th 1904. A dull day on which BH took himself off to the pit, where he noted a lot of fresh looking flints. Then he went on to the field by Cooper's Wood and saw what he thought were many worked flints, and one piece of chert.

Agnes at home. A nasty wet evening that saw no improvement. Mr H Skinner visited with lots of spoil, all eoliths. BH sent Skinner to search at Fairlawn where he found seven types of eolith but no palaeoliths.

9th October 1904. A fine day on which Dr and Mrs Conn and two ladies visited BH who took them first to the fissure then on to Rosewood and the rock shelters and finally to the pit.

Mention is made of Mr Ernest Westlake. It appears he visited and was obliged to stay overnight owing to circumstances that are not made explicit. Mr Stopes visited on Thursday and went to the pit.

On Tuesday October 11th 1904 a mention of visit to a place to the east of Two Chimney House where lay five feet of ochreous gravel.

Wednesday October 12th 1904. BH out at 12.45. Another mention of the excavation to the west of Terry's Lodge valley. Two eoliths found in ochreous gravel.

Thursday October 13th 1904. BH woke at 8.45 after which Potter brought a stone that is described 'very persuasive, well striated'. Found more in pit number 3 at Terry's Lodge where he comments on the nature of the Tertiary strata.

P.211. Friday October 14th 1904. Mr M Ch... went ? to the pit, and brought back some more specimens.

Saturday October 15th 1904. Met Mr S Ward at 9.30 and then they both went on to the Rock shelters and then to the pit and the pond where they met Professor Bonney and Mr Potter. Once home the stones they collected were carefully examined again. Bonney must have made some fairly positive remarks, one of which seems to have been to the effect that BH was responsible for the genesis of Eolithic Man. (This might also be tongue in cheek since Bonney is recorded as

remaining unconvinced about Tertiary humans.). BH however notes that the striae are accepted as genuine and he comments that if it is not the work of glacial action, he does not know what is. Mentions the anvil, which it appears Bonney accepted as genuine. The contents of a letter from Geikie, in which it is suggested that the ice extended as far south as the Thames.. BH Says 'Would not go downstairs' by which I think he is commenting on Bonney's level of interest.

Sunday October 16th 1904. BH and Ted meet at Kemsing station and go via Birches to the pond. The clay was so hard it made any work impossible. They made their way to Crowslands returning home at 1. A day of lovely autumn tints.

P.212. A clipping about the conflict between religion and science which BH identifies as an extract from Freckelton's paper given to the British Association meeting at Cambridge in 1904.

Wednesday 19th October 1904. BH to the pond, five men 'slipping down so I only searched. Secured 4 finds one very rude eolith' Clay noted to be very hard.

Sunday October 23rd 1904. BH spent most of the day sketching as the weather was dull. Also made notes for the Kempton on Thames Museum that was to be opened by Lord Rosebury on the 31st October.

Original letter from WM Newton, dated October 19th 1904. Refers to Windle's newly published book and its review in *The Reliquary*. Excoriating reference (by *The Reliquary* reviewer) to eoliths, part of which is cited: '...If an Eolithic crank is asked what he supposes these extraordinary objects can have been used for, all he can say is that he thinks they must have been body scrapers. Now can any sane person believe that a primeval savage, surrounded by wild beasts ready to devour him at the slightest provocation, would exhaust the whole of his energies in the manufacture of flint scratch-backs? A visit to the monkey house at the Zoo might have suggested implements for body scraping were quite superfluous. As eoliths are at present of no recognised value as archaeological specimens, perhaps a market might be found for them among the verminous persons who frequent the seats of the Thames Embankment.'³⁰ Newton then asks who might be so down on eoliths and thinks he must be '...a funny man'.

A clipping re: the finds from Silchester from the 1903 – 4 excavations.

P.213. Sunday October 30th. Agnes visited. Though he admits to not feeling very well in the morning, BH did some gardening. At night he worked hard sketching and read again and again, Larkby's *Kentish Valley*. Read *The Gentleman's Magazine* himself and later to his wife.

November 5th 1904. The waterwork men were active. One found a bone in the section, which he gave to BH. This worker was from the North and probably itinerant.

³⁰ The reviewer is Romilly Allen and this passage has been quoted elsewhere in this volume with a copy of BH's letter to Allen

Sunday November 6th 1904. BH out at 9 and found a palaeolith in the water pipe section at Four Wents. Refers to finding many eoliths and some white flakes in the high level drifts, though he does not specify exactly where.

Copy of part of the *Geological Magazine*, dated January 1901 of the Bateman collection of Sheffield Museum.

The front page of the *Proceedings of the Geological Society of London* 1878 – 9, November 6th 1878, in which Boyd Dawkins contributes an article on ‘The Mammoth in Space and Time’ and Henry Howorth also contributes an article on ‘The Mammoth in Siberia’.

Section sketch of the Wey and the geology around this area (Weybridge).

P.214. Upside down. Clipping re: the competition column of *The Golden Penny* and the polo challenge trophy.

A copy from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* of Gibbon’s autobiography. As well as a clipping on alternative names for the mole in Yorkshire.

Penultimate page, not numbered, consists of a poem entitled ‘The Planet of Job’ and another entitled ‘The Man with the Flint’, both are in a non – BH hand and the latter is signed by J Scott Temple and dated August 11th ? which year. It is dedicated ‘To BH’.

An entry about the British Association meeting of ?1862 when Huxley was President.

Last, unnumbered, page, a mixture of printed and handwritten material. Another poem by Scott Temple, entitled ‘Andante in E. Minor: Batiste’. A programme of the Toynbee Hall Natural History Society for the years 1895 – 1896. A clipping about Keir Hardie, with a sketch and a small clipping with a poem dedicated to BH, initialled IST.

A small handwritten entry by BH listing the requisite characteristics of a student,

This completes Volume 21 of the Benjamin Harrison Archive held in the Maidstone Museum.

Monday 3rd August 2015

Angela Muthana