



Points from Letters in the Times Newspaper

A SAXON CROSS

As an old inhabitant of Codford may I say that the stump of the Saxon Cross, shown in your article of April 30, was found in the wall of the church of Codford St. Peter's during some repairs to the fabric carried out more than 60 years ago. It was described to me by the builder, Mr. Grist. I have always cherished the hope that someday the remainder of the cross would be discovered. When I was young I have heard it described as a figure of Noah, because he holds in his hand a mallet, and he is supposed to be looking up at the trees which he had planted, as we read in Genesis 8, 20-21. Whether this tradition is worth anything or not I do not propose to decide, but would suggest that the mallet in the hand of the man does require some explanation that will fit in with the tree or trees above the head of the figure.

Mr William C. Edwards, Codford, Wilts.

The Times, Tuesday, 4 May 1937

A SAXON CROSS

The figure on the Codford Saxon Cross holding a mallet probably represents, not Noah, but one of the Scandinavian heroes, either Sigurd or Wayland Smith. At Halton, in Lancashire, is a Cross ornamented with both Christian and Pagan figures, including Sigurd forging his sword and holding a hammer. A similar mixture is also to be seen on the Cross now erected inside Leeds Parish Church, where Wayland Smith is distinguished by a similar hammer. Both these crosses were illustrated by the late Professor Baldwin Brown in "The Arts in Early England."

Mr. Llewellyn E. Williams, Chicksands, Church Hill, Merstham, Surrey.

The Times, Monday, 10 May, 1937