
SOCIETY NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1964

No.14

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

1. PROMOTE THE PRACTICE AND STUDY OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE DISTRICT.
2. FOSTER AND KEEP IN CONTACT WITH EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY.
3. CO-OPERATE WITH NEIGHBOURING SOCIETIES WITH SIMILAR AIMS.
4. ARRANGE GENERAL FIELD-WORK AND VISITS TO SITES.
5. RECORD AND PRESERVE ALL FINDS IN THE DISTRICT AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO ALLOW THEIR FINDS TO BE RECORDED BY THE SOCIETY.
6. ENDEAVOUR TO MAINTAIN IN THE LOCALITY A RIGHT REGARD FOR ENFIELD'S PAST AND THE MATERIAL RELICS THEREOF.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAYS,

EXCAVATIONS AT ELSYNGE (FORTY HALL)

FRIDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER

FILM SHOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER

COACH EXCURSION (DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

FRIDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER

LECTURE

EDITORIAL

AS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY WE HAVE TWO MAIN FUNCTIONS. FIRST, TO ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER THAT FEELING MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE PAST. THIS WE ATTEMPT TO DO WITH LECTURES AND VISITS, AND WE ARE JUSTLY PROUD OF OUR LECTURE PROGRAMME, HAVING HAD MANY OF THE LEADING ARCHAEOLOGISTS COME TO ENFIELD TO SPEAK TO US.

SECONDLY, WE SHOULD PREVENT, WHERE POSSIBLE, DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES. WHERE THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE AND A SITE IS TO BE DESTROYED, IT IS UP TO US TO CARRY OUT A RESCUE DIG TO OBTAIN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE SITE DISAPPEARS.

SUCH A CASE WAS THE RECENT DIG CARRIED OUT AT WELCHES FARM, THE SITE OF AN EARLY MANOR HOUSE. WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED IT WOULD BE THOUGHT THAT SUFFICIENT PEOPLE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN FACT, ONLY THREE MEMBERS ATTENDED REGULARLY, AND FOUR OTHERS AT DIFFERENT TIMES. ALTHOUGH A SECTION WAS OBTAINED THROUGH THE MOAT, A SUSPECTED GATEHOUSE HAD TO BE LEFT UNEXPLORED, AND IS NOW BURIED UNDER EIGHTEEN INCHES OF CONCRETE!

WE HOPE THAT SHOULD SUCH AN EMERGENCY ARISE AGAIN MORE MEMBERS WILL BE PREPARED TO GIVE OF THEIR TIME TO HELP WITH THE DIGGING. SO MUCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE HAS BEEN SWEEPED AWAY IN THE PAST, AND WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SIT BACK AND WATCH THE LITTLE WE HAVE LEFT DISAPPEAR WITHOUT MAKING SOME EFFORT AT SALVAGE.

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THE APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCE THE BULLETIN HAS MET WITH NO RESPONSE, AND UNLESS HELP IS FORTHCOMING IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE PUBLICATION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE TO CEASE. THIS WOULD BE A PITY, FOR WHILE THESE EPHEMERAL PUBLICATIONS HAVE A SHORT LIFE AND RESTRICTED CIRCULATION THEY ARE USEFUL FOR DESCRIBING FINDS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE NEVER BE PUBLISHED AT ALL, AND AS MEANS OF KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH WITH SOCIETY ACTIVITIES.

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IT IS MORE THAN OBVIOUS FROM THE FOREGOING THAT WE ARE SHORT OF ACTIVE MEMBERS, AND ONE SOLUTION IS TO INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP AND HOPE THAT A FEW MORE ENTHUSIASTS ARE BROUGHT IN. WE SUGGEST THAT EVERY PRESENT MEMBER SHOULD DO THEIR BEST TO RECRUIT AT LEAST ONE NEW MEMBER BEFORE THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OUR PROGRAMME OF WINTER MEETINGS BEGINS THIS MONTH, AND WE HOPE THAT MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND AND BRING THEIR FRIENDS. ALL THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE DEMONSTRATION THEATRE

OF THE EASTERN GAS BOARD, SYDNEY ROAD, ENFIELD.

LECTURERS OFTEN HAVE A LONG JOURNEY HOME FROM ENFIELD, AND MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BE IN THE LECTURE ROOM AND SEATED BY 8 P.M. TO ENABLE THE MEETING TO START ON TIME.

FRIDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER

FILM SHOW

"NAGARJUNAKONDA". AMONGST THE ANCIENT CITIES UNCOVERED BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN INDIA, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS IS THE TWO THOUSAND YEAR OLD CITY OF NAGARJUNAKONDA, ONCE A CENTRE FOR ART, RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP.

"A CENTURY OF INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY". THIS FILM BRIEFLY TRACES THE WORK OF INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS OVER THE PAST CENTURY AND SHOWS SOME OF THEIR MOST FAMOUS DISCOVERIES.

"PREHISTORIC MAN IN EUROPE". A SURVEY OF THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND IN EUROPE, FROM THE FIRST TRACES OF WORKED TOOLS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY. THE FILM DEALS WITH THE PALAEOLITHIC SITES IN FRANCE WHICH GAVE THEIR NAME TO THE EARLIEST CULTURES, THE HUNTERS AND FISHERS OF THE ICE AGE, THE GRADUAL SPREAD OF NEOLITHIC FARMERS INTO EUROPE, THE ARRIVAL OF TRADERS AND MISSIONARIES FROM THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN IN THE EARLY BRONZE AGE, AND THE FINAL INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS OF THE IRON AGE.

"POTTERY MAKING". A DESCRIPTION OF EACH STEP IN THE MAKING OF POTTERY BY FOUR DIFFERENT METHODS. THIS FILM SHOWS SOME OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF POTTERY, A KNOWLEDGE OF WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE STUDY OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

FRIDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER

LECTURE

"THE BLACKFRIARS ROMAN SHIP"

PETER MARSDEN

AS THE TITLE SUGGESTS, THIS IS THE STORY OF THE ROMAN SHIP FOUND IN THE BED OF THE THAMES AT BLACKFRIARS, LONDON, AND WHICH WAS EXCAVATED BY PETER MARSDEN. ROMAN SHIPPING GENERALLY WILL ALSO BE DESCRIBED.

BUSH HILL PARK EARTHWORKS

THE EARTHWORKS AT BUSH HILL, ENFIELD (51/322954) CONSIST OF A CIRCULAR BANK AND DITCH ENCLOSING AN

AREA OF APPROXIMATELY $2\frac{1}{2}$ ACRES. IT STANDS ON THE BOYN HILL GRAVELS OF THE 150 FT. TERRACE OF THE RIVER LEA.

ABOUT HALF OF THE SITE WAS DESTROYED WHEN OLD PARK, NOW THE HOME OF THE BUSH HILL PARK GOLF CLUB, WAS BUILT. THE REMAINDER WAS DRASTICALLY ALTERED DURING SUBSEQUENT LANDSCAPING. THE HEIGHT OF THE BANK WAS REDUCED AND THE DITCH PARTLY FILLED IN, A CUTTING WAS MADE THROUGH THE DEFENCES ON THE WEST SIDE TO PROVIDE A FURTHER ENTRANCE (THIS WAS PROVED BY EXCAVATION), AND TREE PLANTING AND THE MAKING OF PATHS FURTHER OBSCURED THE ORIGINAL SHAPE AND LAYOUT OF THE SITE.

THE INTERIOR IS OCCUPIED BY THE HOUSE AND OTHER BUILDINGS, VEGETABLE GARDENS AND PART OF THE GOLF COURSE. TREES COVER THE BANK AND THE AREA IMMEDIATELY BEHIND IT.

ALTHOUGH MUTILATED, THE REMAINS ARE STILL IMPRESSIVE; ON THE WESTERN SIDE THE BANK ATTAINS A HEIGHT OF EIGHT FEET ABOVE THE BOTTOM OF THE DITCH.

EXCAVATIONS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. J. KENT, WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE SOCIETY IN 1956. A SECTION WAS CUT THROUGH THE DEFENCES ON THE NORTH SIDE. THE BANK, WHICH SHOWED NO TRACES OF REVETTING OR TIMBER STRAPPING, WAS OF GRAVEL OBTAINED BY DIGGING A SHALLOW U SHAPED DITCH IN FRONT OF THE RAMPART. THE DITCH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MORE OF A QUARRY FOR BANK MATERIAL RATHER THAN A DEFENSIVE MEASURE IN ITSELF.

PART OF THE TOP OF THE BANK WAS CLEARED, AND FOUR HOLLOWES WERE FOUND, EACH ABOUT ONE FOOT DEEP AND TWO FEET IN DIAMETER. THEY WERE NOT POSTHOLES, BUT WERE PROBABLY INTENDED FOR TREE PLANTING AS PART OF THE ORIGINAL LAND-SCAPING. SEVERAL TRENCHES DUG BEHIND THE RAMPART AT THIS POINT FAILED TO REVEAL ANY TRACES OF OCCUPATION.

A "LINEAR EARTHWORK" BETWEEN THE TOP OF THE HILL AND SALMONS BROOK WAS PROVED ON EXCAVATION TO BE OF 19TH CENTURY DATE, AS A VICTORIAN TEAPOT LID WAS FOUND BENEATH THE BANK ON THE ORIGINAL TURF-LINE. IT WAS LATER ASCERTAINED THAT THIS WAS AN EMBANKMENT FOR A LIGHT RAILWAY TRANSPORTING GRAVEL FROM A NEARBY GRAVEL PIT (51/324954), NOW DISUSED, TO GRANGE PARK STATION (51/317325).

A SUSPECTED CAUSEWAY ACROSS THE FLOOD PLAIN OF SALMONS BROOK (51/321324) WAS SECTIONED, BUT NO PROOF OF THIS WAS OBTAINED.

IN 1962 THE ELECTRICITY BOARD DUG A CABLE TRENCH THROUGH THE DEFENCES AND ACROSS THE INTERIOR OF THE MAIN EARTHWORK. A WATCH WAS KEPT ON THIS WORK BY DR. F. CELORIA AND THE WRITER, BUT NO FINDS OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES WERE REVEALED.

THE LACK OF POSITIVE EVIDENCE LEAVES US WITH THE ORIGINAL GUESS, BASED ON GENERAL PROBABILITY, THAT THE SITE IS OF IRON AGE DATE, 500 B.C. - A.D.43. IT IS SHOWN AS SUCH ON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP OF IRON AGE BRITAIN.

A PLAN OF THE SITE, SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE TRENCHES, IS IN THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION, TOGETHER WITH A COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD.

G.R.G.

LECTURES, SCIENCE MUSEUM DETAILS OF TWO LECTURES TO BE HELD AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM ARE GIVEN BELOW. EACH LECTURE WILL LAST FOR 1½ HOURS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION SEATING IS LIMITED, AND APPLICATIONS FOR TICKETS SHOULD BE MADE TO: LECTURE SERVICE, THE SCIENCE MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W.7.

THE SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION AND CONSERVATION OF ANTIQUES, BY R. M. ORGAN, A.INST.P., F.S.A., F.I.I.C., ON SUNDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, AT 3 P.M.

SYNOPSIS: CONCISE AND ILLUSTRATED DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.

EXAMINATION OF ANTIQUES: NON-DESTRUCTIVE METHODS. ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL OF AN ANTIQUITY. METHODS AND PURPOSE. STUDIES OF AUTHENTICITY. THE RELATION-

SHIP BETWEEN THE MINERAL INCORPORATION ON A BRONZE ANTIQUITY AND ITS LACK OF CHEMICAL STABILITY. CHEMICAL METHODS OF STABILIZING BRONZE ANTIQUITIES AGAINST CHEMICAL CHANGE. METHODS OF RESTORING THE ORIGINAL APPEARANCE OF AN ANTIQUITY: APPLICATIONS OF HARMLESS ACIDS AND ION-EXCHANGE RESIN. AN ELECTROLYTIC METHOD FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF MINERALIZED LEAD. APPLICATION OF SYNTHETIC RESINS TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF FRAGILE ANTIQUITIES. A METALLURGICAL PROBLEM IN CONSOLIDATION.

RADIO-CARBON DATING, BY HAROLD BARKER, B.Sc., F.S.A., ON SUNDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, AT 3 P.M.

SYNOPSIS: RADIOCARBON DATING IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE MANY SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES WHICH HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS DURING THE PERIOD SINCE THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. THE LECTURE DESCRIBES THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF THE METHOD, INDICATES THE EXTREME PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN CARRYING OUT THE MEASUREMENTS, AND DISCUSSES THE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH THESE HAVE BEEN OVERCOME. THE CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE METHOD ARE INDICATED BY REFERENCE TO TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF ITS APPLICATION TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, AND THE LECTURE CONCLUDES WITH A BRIEF REFERENCE TO SOME APPLICATIONS PECULIAR TO THE MUSEUM LABORATORY.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA MURAL STUDIES A FOUR-YEAR DIPLOMA
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION DIPLOMA IN ARCHAEOLOGY COURSE, HELD AT THE
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, 31-34 GORDON SQUARE, W.C.1. THE COURSE COVERS
(1) THE ECOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF PALAEO-LITHIC AND MESOLITHIC MAN: (2)
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WESTERN ASIA, EGYPT AND THE AEGEAN: (3) PREHISTORIC EUROPE
AND BRITAIN, WITH THE 4TH YEAR SPENT IN THE INTENSIVE STUDY OF ONE OPTIONAL
SUBJECT. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BEGIN THEIR STUDIES WITH YEAR (1) AND TO
TAKE PART IN PRACTICAL FIELDWORK. EACH COURSE CONSISTS OF TWENTY-FOUR
MEETINGS, MONDAY AND TUESDAY, 7-9 P.M., PLUS FOUR FIELD VISITS. FEES:
£1.10. - . EACH FOR COURSE 104 AND 105, YEAR (1). THE COURSE BEGINS ON 28TH
SEPTEMBER, 1964, AND APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO: THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
(EXTENSION), DEPT. OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES, SENATE HOUSE, MALET STREET, W.C.1.

SIMILAR DIPLOMA COURSES WILL BE HELD AT ENFIELD COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY,
TUESDAY, 6.30-8.30 P.M., FEE £1. APPLY TO: THE HONORARY SECRETARY, ENFIELD
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, QUEENSWAY, ENFIELD.

THERE ARE SEVERAL COURSES TO BE HELD IN LONDON THIS WINTER ON VARIOUS
ASPECTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY. DETAILS OF THESE MAY BE FOUND IN THE CALENDAR OF
EXCAVATIONS, ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY, COPIES OF WHICH
MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE C.B.A., 10 BOLTON GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.5.

EXCAVATIONS, ELSYNGE, FORTY HALL A LARGE BRICK BUILT DRAIN HAS BEEN LOCATED
AT THE ELSYNGE EXCAVATIONS; A BRIEF ACCOUNT HAS APPEARED IN THE NATIONAL AND
LOCAL PAPERS. BUILT OF TUDOR BRICK, ITS COURSE WAS PLOTTED BY ONE OF OUR
MEMBERS CRAWLING THROUGH IT WITH A TAPE MEASURE. A HAZARDOUS OPERATION, AS IT
MEANT NEGOTIATING TWO FALLS OF EARTH AND A RIGHT-ANGLED TURN! THE INFORMATION
THUS GAINED WILL HELP IN ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF OTHER BUILDINGS ON THE
SITE. WE HOPE TO HAVE A FULL REPORT FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN.

ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN THE BULLETIN SHOULD BE SENT TO MR. G. R. GILLAM,
23 MERTON ROAD, ENFIELD.