

SOCIETY NEWS



THE BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 1971

No. 41.

CONTENTS

Editorial.

Roman pot with graffito from Landseer Road.

Hilly Fields-an historical note.

The 'Enfield'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

9th June 1970	Members Night.
14th July 1970	Members Night.
18th July 1970	Coach Outing.
15th August 1970	Coach Outing.
18th August 1970	Members Night.

'Society News' is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The Editor is Mr. G. R. Gillam, 23, Merton Road, Enfield, Middx., to whom articles and notes for inclusion and correspondence regarding the bulletin should be addressed. The bulletin is free to members. Extra copies may be obtained from the Editor (5p post free).

EDITORIAL

In December 1964, more in despair than with any real hope of getting any work done on the subject, we wrote the following editorial:

"Our enthusiasm was recently fired after reading Kenneth Hudson's book 'Industrial Archaeology, and we ventured into the older parts of Enfield to see what material remains still existed of 18th and 19th century Enfield. This was a brief and cursory visit to 'test' the area and we hope to follow it with an organised survey at a later date. It was surprising, especially in view of recent development work, how much has survived.

Archaeology has become synonymous with prehistory, largely due to the efforts of prehistorians!! But we are, after all, concerned with human history, and archaeology should surely be considered a method of obtaining that history, be it 1864 B.C. or A.D. 1864. That method is to go out and see things for oneself.....

The things to be seen are the everyday objects which we are told matter so much for earlier periods. So if this premise holds good for, say, the Roman period, why not our own? 18th and 19th century ironwork - yes, we include V.R. pillar boxes - railways and railway buildings, the navigable Lea, brickworks, Victorian domestic architecture, factory buildings, and a host of others. Progress cannot be halted (although the word progress is often used to describe wanton vandalism), and we do not suggest that preservation is practicable nor desirable in many cases, but there are many objects which so completely symbolize the Victorian era that it seems a great pity that they should be destroyed. But whatever the site, and whether or not it is threatened, it does not take long to photograph and make a few measurements to ensure that an adequate record is available for future generations."

Since this was written a lot more sites have been swept away in the path of modern development. But not before the Industrial Archaeology Research Group set up in 1968 carried out a survey and published the results in 'A survey of the Industrial Monuments in Enfield' as the second research report of the Society.

The Group is to be congratulated on the depth to which the subjects have been researched and on the method of presentation in a very attractive report. The report is well illustrated and includes photographs of the workers at the Ponders End Crepe Works in 1860 and the last horse drawn barge on the Lea.

.....

.....

.....

GRAFFITO - LANDSEER ROAD In 1966 members carried out a small excavation in the garden of one of the houses in Landseer Road, Enfield when a quantity of Roman pottery was recovered. Amongst the pottery were some fragments bearing graffito and they were recently submitted for examination. The following report appears in the current edition of Britannia:

45. Enfield, Middlesex. Five fragments, of which two join, from the shoulder of a dark grey jar found (56) in 1905 in a Roman rubbish-filled ditch at Landseer Road, Enfield. A text has been cut in at least two lines, reading: SI Q(V)IS CV(PIT(?)SII) VIIRITVDIN(IIM).....) IN (...) IIV (.... 'If anyone desires austerity.....'

56. Mr. H. K. Bowes submitted the sherds for Mr. H. J. Coates on behalf of the Enfield Archaeological Society. The letters are bodily cut in capitals apart from a cursive form of R. Severitudo is a rare word found in Plautus, Epid. 5, 1, 3 and Apuleius, Metam. 1, 25. Gradenwitz, Laterculi has no other word to fit these letters.

A study of the other pottery is being made by the Romano-British Group and a report will be published in due course.

.....P

.....:

.....:

LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST Do you subscribe to the London Archaeologist? If not may we suggest that you do so. A quarterly magazine sponsored by archaeological societies in and around London it includes reports of excavations, notes on research projects and news on forthcoming events.

For further details write or 'phone Mr. E. L. Fereday, 779, Great Cambridge Road, Enfield. 363 7319.

.....:

.....:

.....:

AQUEDUCT - FLASH ROAD. The Ministry of the Environment have been asked to schedule the cast iron aqueduct on the old course of the New River as an ancient manument. This structure was exavated by members of the Industrial Archaeology Research Group in 1968.

.....:

.....:

.....:

The excavation on the edge of Hilly Fields in 1969 failed to locate any evidence of buildings but a certain amount of 18th and 19th century pottery was recovered. The pottery and other finds are being studied and a report will appear in a future edition of the bulletin. In the meantime, we include in this issue a note about the history of the area which is not only of interest with regard to the excavated area but also in its relationship to the Chase, a subject now under close study by the Medieval Research Group.

THE SITE AT PHIPPS HATCH LANE

Historical Note by
J. D. Sykes M.A.

Hilly Fields today is an attractive area of parkland on the edge of the built-up part of Enfield. One might imagine from its appearance that the entire park has always been open country but this is not the case. It is not difficult to see that the area, as its name indicates, was once enclosed fields and many of the existing trees form a regular pattern and mark the boundaries of old fields which have long disappeared. In some cases the hedges still remain. All the fields can be seen quite clearly on the First Edition of the 25" Ordnance Survey map for Enfield, published in 1866 (1) But somewhat unexpectedly this map also shows a number of dwellings at the corner of Cooks Hole and Phipps Hatch Lane, a row of cottages at the corner of Browning Road and Phipps Hatch Lane, a house set further back from the road with grounds fronting onto Phipps Hatch Lane.

The fields shown on the 1866 map are in fact very old enclosures and some of the dwellings on the south side of Hilly Fields date back until at least the seventeenth century. The house with the grounds fronting onto Phipps Hatch Lane can be identified in a rental of 1622 (2) as "tenement with an orchard and a little croft" belonging to Thomas Cordell, a tilemaker. A piece of land at Phipps Hatch Gate is described as "a parcel of a certain wood or grove called Phipps Hatch with a cottage thereupon erected". This cottage with a small garden is shown at the corner of Cooks Hole on the 1866 map and stood until just before the last war. The 1622 rental also refers to a field of 3 acres "abutting south upon Phipps Hatch Lane" and "pasture ground lying together called the pightles and the Bottom Leaze containing... 5 acres near Phipps Hatch Gate. The 1866 map shows no dwelling on the site of the excavation and none of the dwellings around Phipps Hatch mentioned in the 1622 rental can be related to this site.

Even so, we have evidence of early settlement in this area,

definitely from the seventeenth century and very likely from the medieval period. Hilly Fields is only a short distance from the eastern boundary of Enfield Chase as defined in the Act for dividing the Chase in 1777. The scatter of dwellings and the size and shape of the fields suggest that the land was enclosed from the Chase in the Middle Ages, with individual settlers clearing the waste and woodland, and establishing smallholdings with cottages along Cooks Hole and Phipps Hatch Lane. Enclosures of this kind were particularly common in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and Enfield's straggling early settlements on the edge of the Chase, along Chase Side and up Brigadier Hill to Phipps Hatch, and along Clay Hill to the "Rose and Crown" could well date from this time.

(1). British Museum Map Room. Photocopy in the Enfield Central Reference Library.

(2). 1622 Rental: Manor of Enfield. British Museum Addit. M.S.S. 24809.

.....

.....

.....

NEW RIVER, WHITEWEBBS A small excavation has been in progress in clearing the remains of a wooden aqueduct which carried the New River over the stream to the east of the club house on Whitewebbs golf course. Substantial and well preserved timbers have been uncovered and two interesting sections through the river bed obtained. We hope to include a detailed report in the next bulletin.

.....

.....

.....

Enquiries are often received as to the nature and origin of the 'Enfield'. The following note reprinted from a previous issue of the bulletin will answer the question.

THE ENFIELD According to an old writer, this strange heraldic beast has "the head of a fox, the chest of a greyhound, the talons of an eagle and the hindlegs and tail of a wolf".

It formed a distinctive part of the coat of arms of the old Enfield Borough Council, and it seems highly probable that it will reappear on the new grant of arms for the London Borough. A splendid version of this very odd creature is to be seen outside the Civic Offices at Enfield.

Why is it called an Enfield? No satisfactory answer has yet been produced. It seems likely that its original name was a similar sound and became corrupted into the word 'Enfield' over the centuries. At any rate, it does not seem to have taken its name from this locality. Were 'Enfield' once common round here, and the town took its name from an extinct creature? Alas, no! Students of place names will no doubt be aware of the correct origin and meaning of the name of our borough, and it is untrue to assert that the Enfield Preservation Society is guided by the principles of the R.S.P.C.A.

An expert on heraldic matters has expressed the view that it seems to have been the ancient crest of a very old Irish family, and its true name may have been originally recorded in a medieval bestiary now lost or destroyed.

W. L. Gates. B.A.
