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SOCIETY NEWS

THE BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE NUMBER 49 - JUNE 1973

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SOCIETY NEWS is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The Editor is Jill Green, 24 Lynmouth Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield. 01-360-7752, to whom articles and notes for inclusion in, and correspondence regarding the bulletin should be addressed.

Free to members, extra copies may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, price 5p, post free.

EDITORIAL

Once again the committee has been planning the next year in the Society. Many of the meetings have now become an annual 'event' such as the Film Show, the Presidential Address and the Roundabout but the feeling is that we are still not catering for all of our members, although the attendance at the AGM in March was the largest for some years.

One of our problems is that we do not know what the members want, because they never tell us. If YOU know of a good speaker, an interesting film or topic or a subject on which you would like a lecture then let any committee member know.

The other main problem facing the committee is the meeting place. Unfortunately the Gas Showrooms are only available for one meeting per year, reserved for our Presidential Address and 'The George', in addition to costing more money, is not very suitable because of the noise. This leaves Edmonton Upper School on the Cambridge Road. Here the problem is transport and, with this in mind, it is now proposed to run a car rota to enable those members who have difficulty in reaching the school to attend the meetings.

It has also been suggested that we hold more meetings and social functions during the year and so enclosed with this bulletin is a short questionnaire. The committee would be very grateful if members could spare a few minutes to fill this in and return it to the Editor (or any other committee member). The answers will then be analysed and used to help plan for the future of the Society.

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THE DENIS ALSFORD TROPHY FOR THE BEST ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ENTRY

Once again we will be running this competition for the Denis Alsford Trophy. Unfortunately last year proved a very poor effort in so far as numbers of entries was concerned, although the standard of photography was high. This year the subject **MUST** be Archaeological or Historical and entries will be judged more on this aspect than on the actual quality of the photograph.

Entries should be handed to our Social Secretary - Mr E Lionel Fereday - by the end of August. Slides or photographs are acceptable and the winners will be announced at the party in September, (see diary and members nights).

* * * * *

Once again I would like to express my grateful thanks to Miss Ann Gadsdon for all the help she gives in duplicating and despatching the bulletin. Also to her long-suffering family for housing the duplicator.

Jill Green

Wednesday June 13 - 8pm.

Salisbury House,
Bury Street West, N 9

MEMBERS NIGHT

Our librarian, Miss C Blair will be showing some of the many slides in her collection.

Sunday June 17

COACH OUTING TO DANEBURY IRON AGE HILL FORT

There are still a few vacancies on this trip, which will include one or two surprise items.

Saturday July 7

COACH OUTING TO OXFORD

Again there are still a few seats left and we like to have a full coach for all the outings.

Wednesday July 11 - 8pm.

Salisbury House,
Bury Street West, N 9

MEMBERS NIGHT

A symposium of activities undertaken by the various research groups within the Society.

Sunday August 19

COACH OUTING TO AVEBURY AND WEST KENNET

Another trip 'Westward'. Hurry and book now.

Saturday September 22

Salisbury House,
Bury Street West, N 9

AUTUMN PARTY

Saturday September 29

COACH OUTING TO COLCHESTER.

MEMBERS NIGHTS * * * * *

Several of our newer members have asked the purpose of members nights so I am taking the liberty of trying to explain the idea behind these summer meetings of the Society.

Basically the idea is that there should be a few informal meetings in the year where members, new and old, can get together, exchange ideas, have a chat and generally get 'into' the Society. It was originally envisaged that the members themselves 'took' these evenings so that they felt that they were contributing something to the Society but, unfortunately, members are not very forthcoming with ideas and seem reluctant to do anything, even if only for five minutes.

Our first members night this year is on June 13th, at Salisbury House, starting at 8pm, when Miss C Blair, our Librarian, will be showing some of her many slides. However if there are any other members who would like to contribute five or more minutes talking about something in which they are interested please contact our Social Secretary - Mr E Lionel Fereday, 01-363-7319.

The second members night - July 11th - will take the form of a Symposium, when the various research groups within the Society will showing, for about 15 minutes each, the activities undertaken.

The members night due to take place in August has been postponed to SEPTEMBER 22nd. Many of you who attended the Presidential Address this year will remember that Dr Anthony expressed a wish to meet more members on a more informal basis. This gave our Social Secretary an idea. Why not invite Dr Anthony to our next party? But why wait until next year? Why not make it the third members night! Details still have to worked out but keep the date free and come along. It is hoped to have the photograph competition again this year and Dr Anthony, we hope, will be able to see at least some of the entries and present the trophy to the winner.

REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS NIGHT ARE FOR YOU - THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

HISTORY FROM A ROMAN COIN

During 1972, the Romano-British group's work revealed great quantities of tile, pottery and several other interesting finds. Without question the allotments of Churchfields are harbouring untold amounts of 'survivors' of the vicissitudes of the best part of the last two thousand years.

It is to these '.....other interesting finds' that attention is drawn and in particular, two coins which were found whilst excavation was in progress on plot 125. The first may be dismissed in a single sentence, in that it is a severely corroded bronze coin of, as yet, undetermined date and denomination.***

The other coin, which has survived the ages with greater impunity, proved to be more interesting. After careful removal of dirt, a silver coin was revealed about the size of a sixpence. Further scrutiny led to its identification. It proved to be a denarius of the Emperor Trajan, minted in Rome between AD 115 and 117.

Trajan's name and titles appear on the coin in an abbreviated form. (The legends, on coins of Trajan, are necessarily small and neat and this enabled all the lettering to fit on. A prominent feature on coins of this emperor.) They were quite lengthy even when shortened and, in the case of this specimen, the titles are continued on the reverse. The coin was considerably worn but enough detail remained to enable the legend and reverse type to be ascertained. They are as follows:

Obverse legend - IMP.CAES.NER.TRAIAN.OPTIM.AVG.GER.DAC.PARTHICO.

Laureate, draped bust of Trajan facing right.

Reverse legend - P.M.TR.P.COS.VI.P.P.S.P.Q.R.

Virtus (or courage) standing right, with foot on a helmet, holding a spear and parazonium.

Parazonium? What on earth is a parazonium? (you may be asking). In fact it is a short sheathed sword; this interpretation is generally accepted but it has also been thought to be a quiver.

The legend, as previously stated, is in an abbreviated form and below is a list of each respective abbreviation with its expanded form, followed by an explanation where necessary.

IMP.	IMPERATOR	or commander-in-chief of the army.
CAES.	CAESAR	or a title of honour.
NER.	NERVA	- name taken when adopted by Nerva.
TRAIAN.	TRAIANVS.	
OPTIM.	OPTIMVS	or the best.
AVG.	AVGVSTVS	- title of honour upon elevation to the throne.
GER.	GERMANICVS	- referring to victory over the Germans.
DAC.	DACIVS	" " " " " " " Dacians.
PARTHICO	or PARTHICVS	" " " " " " " Parthians.

- P.M. PONTIFEX MAXIMVS or high priest (the emperor was head of the Roman religion.)
- TR.P. TRIBVNICIA POTESTAS or the Tribunician Power. An office held by the emperor and his heirs giving them governmental power. This was generally (but not always) renewed each year and can be used as a method of dating coins.
e.g. in simplified form - TR.P = 1st year (of office), TR.P.II = 2nd year, TR.P.III = 3rd year, etc.
- COS.VI. CONSVLATVS VI or Consul for the 6th time. or in other words a magistrate, there were usually two, the emperor being one. This office was also generally renewed each year and is another method of dating coins.
- P.P. PATER PATRIAE or Father of his Country - this is another honorary title.
- S.P.Q.R. SENATVS POPVLESQVE ROMANVS or (ruler over) The Senate and Peaople of Rome.

Who was Trajan?

What do we know about Trajan? Well below follows a very brief account of his life, including the historical events relevant to the above coin.

Marcus Ulpius Trajanus was born in Italica, Spain (now known as Old Seville) in about AD 52. He joined the army and had a very successful career, eventually becoming a general of great note and fame. Whilst in Colonia Agrippina (now Cologne) as a prefect of Lower Germany, he learned that he had been adopted by the emperor Nerva (in AD97). As heir to the throne he shared the title GERMANICUS with the emperor and also took his name (NERVA).

In the January of AD 98 Nerva died, after a reign of only 16 months. Trajan then became emperor, taking the title AUGUSTUS and in AD 99 returned to Rome. In that year the Senate bestowed upon him the title PATER PATRIAE and in 100, OPTIMUS. Between AD 101 and 103 and again between 104 and 106 he campaigned in Dacia (an area which now includes Hungary and Transylvania). Returning to Rome, again victorious, the Senate conferred the title DACIUS upon him.

The victory was commemorated in Rome by the erection of a column one hundred and thirty two feet high, with a spiral relief two hundred yards long depicting scenes from the Dacian campaigns. This can still be seen, although the statue of Trajan which once adorned the top of the column has unfortunately long since been replaced by a statue of St. Peter.

In AD 114 the army, under Trajan's leadership, advanced into Parthia (an area south of the Caspian Sea). Once again fortune smiled upon Rome and Trajan took the title of PARTICUS. His other campaigns added Armenia, Assyria and Mesopotamia to the Empire and he effected a building programme which left its mark on Rome and throughout its provinces.

On returning from his eastern expeditions, he became ill and died on 10th August AD 117 at the age of sixty five in Selinuntum, Cilicia (now Selinti in Turkey). He died leaving, perhaps, one of the most famous Romans as Heir.....HADRIAN.

R A Coxshall

***After further consideration it would seem that this coin is a copper AS which is a sixteenth part of a denarius.

Oh! Yes!

Parliament. January 1st 2101

The question has been asked in parliament today as to why a preservation order could not be placed on number 85 Coronation Day Terrace, Edmonton. It was soon apparent that the majority of honourable members had never heard of this important building, soon to be demolished to make way for a new block of 60-storey flats. The member who raised the question of the preservation was asked why, in his opinion, the building ought to be saved.

"This particular building, while it is only one of a terrace of such buildings, must be preserved as a typical example of its kind. Historical records show that when these buildings were first erected many had faults, often meaning major rebuilding during the first year of their life. Number 85, however, seems to have been more conscientiously built as not only the foundations but the main structure appear to be very sound.

Whilst there seems to have been some internal structural alterations the external structure has only an added concrete outhouse to differ it from its neighbours. Originally it would have two main rooms plus a small kitchen in the downstairs section but the dividing wall between the larger rooms seems, at some time, to have been removed. The upstairs section appears not to have been altered although, unlike other extant examples, there is a third floor underneath the roof, presumably used as a childrens room as toys were found there.

This building has not been occupied for many years but a grant of about £100,000 would probably suffice to restore it to its original specifications"

The questioner then asked the name of the builder of this 'historic building' and what type of person, obviously of some private income, would have been able to live in a two-storey building with its own garden.

"The occupier was, in the building's earliest years, an employee of one of the nationalized industries paying only £4-£5 per week rent. The building was designed and erected in 1950 by the, then, local council at a cost of a little over £1500."

Well. Could it happen?

On a sunny Sunday in November a dozen members of the Romano-British Group met outside the Townsend Arms at Hertford Heath in order to explore the supposed course of Ermine Street for about 2 miles to the south.

Through Hertford Heath Ermine Street follows the A602 which joins Hoddesdon and Hertford. There is a 6 foot drop between the modern road and the allotments on the western side. Pipelaying was in progress along this side but nothing of interest had been exposed as a result.

At the southern end of the village Ermine Street becomes Elbow Lane, a bridle path between hedges overgrown with bushes. There is no sign of gravel, banks or ditches. After half a mile a metalled surface appears, being the approach road to Elbowlane Farm. There are occasional banks along the eastern side. Woods and osier beds become more numerous.

Just north of Elbowlane Farm, where metalling ends, a ditch had recently been cleaned out along the western side. Two of our younger members walked along it and came across a gravel section at a depth of about 4 feet which could have been natural.

Further north the road is again unmetalled as it descends into the valley of a stream. The surface becomes more waterlogged and the going increasingly difficult. The stream crosses the track in a 6 foot deep ditch forming a natural section. Unfortunately the section shows no trace of gravel, only layers of clay.

The track ascends the southern slope of this valley to cross a small lane from Hoddesdon. This stretch is very overgrown although banks are visible on either side. South of the lane another stream is crossed, on the far side of which the track is less overgrown and drier, indicating gravel beneath the surface. One could easily imagine that the low banks define the margins of ancient Ermine Street and that the central camber is actually the 'Street' itself.

A small trial hole showed gravel at a depth of about 1 foot. It is suggested that any section which might be contemplated in the future should be made at this spot which has been earmarked. A member of the group has consulted archives which show that the banking, metalling and osier beds are all of comparatively recent date.

In spite of the necessarily speculative nature of the outing everyone had a most enjoyable day, the highlight of which was possibly at the 'Green Man' where a leisurely packed lunch was enjoyed amid ramblers and horse riders (also geese and donkeys). It would be interesting to see aerial photographs of the section explored. Failing that two or three shots from the top of the radio tower near Elbowlane Farm might be useful.

FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE - AN OUTING BY THE ROMANO-BRITISH GROUP

On Saturday 10th March the Romano-British took a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace. We formed at the Cambridge Pub at 10.00. Present were H Randall, L Fereday, R Coxshall, P Armitage, R Fenwick, B Ivens, G Ivens, J Ivens and myself. We stopped at 'The Kings Arms' pub, about ten miles from Chichester, and had dinner. It took almost three hours to get there.

HISTORY

In 43AD a large timber-built granary was erected by the army.

In 45AD the army left.

In 60AD an elaborate house was built. This may have belonged to the client king Cogidubnus.

In 75AD the Flavian Palace was built in the Roman style.

In 100AD, after 25 years, there were alterations and additions which suggests that the palace was divided into apartments.

In 280AD the palace was destroyed by a fire.

VISIBLE REMAINS

Only the North Wing is visible although part of the East Wing is not under cover. Most of the foundations have been robbed or ploughed up. The mosaics have been destroyed in much the same way.

The Dolphin mosaic is complete. It consists of a winged cupid in the centre. A small bird is shown standing on a leaf in the northern border and it is thought this may be the trademark of the mosaic artist. On each of the sides were two sea-dolphins and two sea-horses.

ROGER IVENS

Editors note.

It is certainly very nice to get one of our junior members to contribute towards the bulletin. I believe Roger is 11. Any more contributions will be more than welcome.

The Edmonton Hundred Historical Association has recently published its Occasional Paper no. 22 - entitled "William and Robert Cecil as Landowners in Edmonton and Southgate 1561-1600". As usual with publications from the EHHA much research has gone into the pamphlet and it is a valuable source of reference for anyone studying this particular period. A copy has been lodged with our librarian - Miss C Blair but more copies can be obtained from the EHHS, price 50p.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The London Borough of Enfield will be running an evening class entitled - 'TECHNOLOGY: ITS HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY' for three terms at Enfield Chase Upper School, Holly Walk, Enfield, starting on Tuesday 25th September at 7.30pm. The tutor will be Alan Spackman who is Convenor of the Industrial Archaeology Research Group within the Society.

'The development of technology, when considered in relation to the changes occurring in society, becomes in many ways a study of the history and development of the society.'

It is expected that course members will have widely differing interests and experience, many with no knowledge of science or engineering. Eight major areas of activity will be considered:

- Transportation
- Civil Engineering
- Coal, Iron and Steel, Timber
- Energy Sources
- Prime Movers
- Machine Tools
- Chemical Industry
- Food Production and Supply.

The specific examples chosen within each area will, it is hoped, reflect the various interests of members of the course. There may be opportunities to discuss some current prototype systems that will affect our future environment - eg Concorde, motorways, water resources.

There are now available in local libraries (and in paperback editions) many books relevant to the course. Wherever possible slides and films will be used for illustration. Visits will be arranged to museums and sites of important industrial Archaeological significance, as well as some examples still in operation.

Enrolment will be on Monday 10th and Wednesday 12th September between 7.30 and 9.30pm. The fee is expected to be £3 for the three terms but more details of this course, and others run by the Borough can be obtained from the 'Leisure' handbook which is due out towards the end of June.

On Saturday August 26th the Waltham Abbey Historical Society are having an Open Afternoon, starting at 2.30pm. Members of the WAHS will be showing visitors around and it is hoped that as many members of the EAS as possible will be able to get along to see the work of our neighbours.

5th ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUNDABOUT

May 6th

On a very damp Sunday morning 45 members and friends of the Society set out on what was to be the wettest, but probably most successful Roundabout yet. All cars finished the course of just over 100 miles, albeit with a bent front in one case.

The winning car, for the third year running, was that driven by Colin Christie, second was a tie between the Crotons and the Wilsons, who were accompanied by Mr & Mrs Cyril Smith. Unfortunately no extra points were gained by the gentleman who tried to take a sign post with him as he reversed. Credit must be given to Mr & Mrs Callow who failed to bring the required O.S. maps but still managed to find over half the places.

If there is any member who would like to go round the course the Editor has spare copies of the questions. However here is resumé of where we went.

The first stop was the Church at Monken Hadley (250975) which contains the grave of W M Thackeray and a very interesting date above the main door (1494 written as 1492). Across country to Kings Langley (076028) to have a look at the locks. The builders name that was required was Appleby, Fordingham, England and, as only two cars got the right answer, this question obviously proved rather difficult.

The next place was discovered, by the organisers, by accident. At a place called Commonwood Common (047003) it is a large building in the tudor style, now divided into several 'houses', some parts of it probably being original and some rebuilt using old materials. Being in private ownership we were only able to see the front of this curious building, with its pargetting and carved wooden beams but it was certainly very interesting.

On to Sarrat Church End (039983) with its little row of almshouses and its unique Saddle-back church. With many dates carved around the inside the one that was being searched for was 1634, which appears on two sides of an arch. A paper mache bell was also to be seen which is used as an appeal bell (which gave the organisers cause for a pun). There are also outlines of hands carved in the outside of one of the towers but, unfortunately, the rain forced many people to miss this question.

The milestone obelisk at Chalfont Common (proved rather difficult for some to find and, it would appear from the answer papers, that certain groups failed to read that 7 miles to Chesham in one direction and 21 miles to London in the other made a total of 28 miles.

From here it was a short trip to Amersham (956973), or Agmodesham as the Saxons spelt it. The Market Hall was the object of interest as nearly everyone pointed out, but the number of arches varied between 12 and 17 (actually 16, one of which had once been used as lock-up). The 'water supply' was, in fact, an old-fashioned fire hydrant situated on the wall of the hotel on the other side of the road to the Hall. Although it was pouring with rain when most of the cars arrived in the town this hydrant was clearly visible from a car.

The Jubilee Well at Lee Clump (910042) was found by most cars as was the camp at Cholesbury (930072). This prehistoric earthwork is well worth a visit by anyone in the Society but the number of 'entrances' proved a puzzle. We counted 5 or 6 but the answers varied between 1 and 8. There is now a small church just inside the earthwork.

The village of Aldbury (966125) nestles in a valley and is becoming a tourist spot but it rather pretty and much frequented by ramblers. It possesses the unusual stocks and whipping post combined and one of the cottages has a large Galleon weather-vane. A short drive up a steep hill and through National Parkland took us to a large monument (971131) to commemorate Francis, 3rd Earl of Bridgewater, called the 'Father of Inland Navigation', hence the connection with the Grand Union Canal at Kings Langley. The grounds around the monument provide an excellent picnic place and there are nature trails marked out for the energetic. On leaving the site we could look along a line of trees to see Ashridge House, now a college.

The story of Peter the Wild Boy is told on a plaque in the parish church of Northchurch (975088), those who got their answers from a guide book got no marks!!

The remains of the castle at Berkhamstead(995082) are quite extensive, with a stone well and one of flint, and three visible fireplaces. Restoration work is still continuing at this site, in the care of the Department of the Environment.

Perhaps the most fascinating place visited this year was at Piccotts End (532091). On restoring these medieval cottages wall paintings were discovered under the plastering of one of the walls. These have been carefully cleaned and restored, where possible, and the house opened as a museum. Apart from the wall paintings there are many curios within the rooms, of all different periods, wood carvings, paintings, embroidery, tapestry, ivory carvings, ironwork, stained glass and the room at the rear tends to look rather like a junk shop, it is so full of objects. A little walk from the house is a Georgian mill with a hand-operated petrol pump standing in its grounds.

The penultimate stop was at Shenley (189007) where there is a small, curious, round lock-up situated by the village pond. Here can be found the inscriptions 'Do Well, Fear Not, Be Sober and Be Vigilant. We haven't yet worked out how some cars managed to end up in the Mental Hospital!

To make a change this year we finished the Roundabout in Enfield Market Place and, despite the appalling weather, all starters arrived safely back. The maximum number of points was 100, including the 'treasures and the winners managed to get 93.

Our thanks go to Mr Ian Jones and his assistants for their organisation and to all the members and friends who took part. We hope to see you all again next year.

The map references are taken from the O.S. 1" maps nos. 159 & 160.