

# GROUND

MAGAZINE.

UNDER

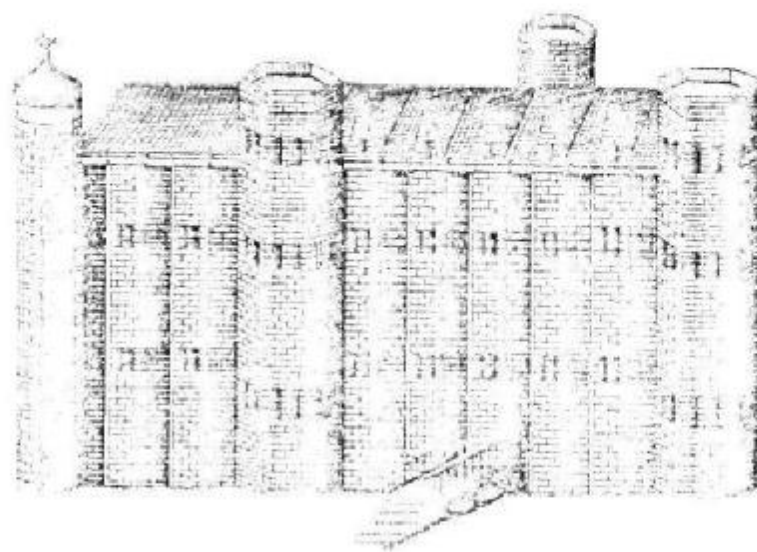
THE

DUA  
STAFF  
NEWS

No. 4.

MAR

FREE  
CASTLE  
INSIDE!



## THE FORESHORE IN THE CITY.

The aim of the foreshore watching brief which was set up last year is to assess the archaeological potential of this area in the City and to set up a system for individual searchers to report what they have found-co-ordinating the information that in the past reached a range of institutions, and perhaps more failed to reach any. There has been some dissatisfaction among searchers with the their information was being handled, and relations deteriorated particularly during the period the new museum was not open.

While not taking the CBA's extreme anti-treasure hunting line, it is hoped that the Port of London Authority's new by-laws and license for searchers will provide some curb on the increasing extent and depth of digging by the public. Such restraints will hardly be popular with the diggers of deep holes, but some limits are necessary if any useful archaeological observations are to be made. In the absence of such guidelines, there was a real danger that reporting finds to the museum would be regarded as a carte-blanche justification of any method of recovering them.

The discovery of a 'boat' at Queenhithe (7½' down!) along with the recovery of a number of well-preserved weapons over the past year caused anxiety that something of importance was being destroyed. Having spoken with the finder and others, I am as satisfied as I can be, without having seen the actual timbers, that it is not a C16th. boat, but part of some sort of groyne\* (still of interest, but hardly worth the expense of a coffer dam for a proper excavation a boat might have warranted).

### MILK STREET.

In describing the GPO as a mudbath in the last issue, the writer made an error. Its a damp patch compared to Milk St! Since the jinxed GPO 'have-trowel-will-trowel'gang roared into Milk St., a mere four photographic cleans have been washed out in the last two weeks!

Despite the mud aiding and abetting backache and bruised ribs, the spoil heap and concrete overlying the presumed Saxon deposits along the west side, has been removed to expose a further 20 sq.m. of presumed Saxon. A series of tips and a clay-lined pit have been exposed, and once the weather holds it will be photographed in plan and section.

The central area has provided six pits, again possibly Saxon, all of which are almost excavated. These, due to the

On the positive side, some of the diggers have been extremely helpful, if one forgets the question of whether they should be digging at all; they have gone out of their way to report an antique anchor and to bring to our notice an area of possible pre-Roman land-surface, with extensive botanical remains, exposed at extreme low tides, as well as handing over to the museum a few minor items.

Priorities for the watching brief will be two areas with (delft and stoneware) kiln material, the former on a possibly original C17th.foreshore, perhaps the chance to examine pipe tobacco of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries - for evidence of adulteration? and an attempt to understand more fully the lead cloth seals, which have been found in greater variety and numbers on one area of London foreshore than anywhere else in the country.

The brief needs the public co-operation to work properly; if the worst aspects of treasure hunting can be restrained it could provide much useful data. It will probably remain of minor importance compared with the DUA's other sites and will tend to be operated more by observation and public relations than excavation, but at the very least the DUA is now showing an interest in an area of the City where antiquities will be regularly recovered from the ground for many years to come.

**GEOFF.**

\*GROYNE: Timber framework or low broad wall run out to check drifting of beach and so stop encroachment of sea.  
C.O.D.

the high water-table, have produced a tremendous amount of organic material. Whole lenses of seeds have been found, and more unusually numerous beetles. One pit has basal lining in excellent condition. Another may show usage before it was used as a cess-pit. In this case, a layer of oily, black matter was found below slumped brickearth and stratigraphic debris from the pit-sides. These pits alone should keep George happy for some time!

Perhaps the most interesting feature may again be Saxon. This is a rectangle of very well preserved wattle sticks and withes enclosing about 15-20s.. Its function is at present unknown. Hopefully more will be known by the next issue.

by **ROD.**

# GPO

The atmosphere on the GPO site now resembles an 'after the bomb' scenario; no more is there an avalanche of diggers sweeping across the site, as the familiar call of 'tea' echoes around the vasty spaces of the G2nd. Roman levels and beyond, sometimes reaching the Geodetic hut where magician Mel and his assistant(s) conjured up all manner of wondrous inventions, like sink units, etc. from nothing (see the Dail Mel 'Ideal Home Exhibition' at Olympia)

Another tear blots my context sheet as I write; where are they now? gone, gone to the depths of Milk Street, never again to see the light of day, and the black clouds gathering behind St. Pauls for a pre-emptive strike on the latest photographic clean-up.

Seriously though, your correspondent feels like the last of the Mohicans, as the planned withdrawal of the majority of staff has now been completed. With the exception of Mel, Geoff, Joanna, Richard and myself, everyone else has transferred to Milk Street, swelling the work-force there. The idea was to switch the main effort to the new site, with Steve retaining overall control of the GPO and leaving a 'skeleton staff' there to keep the site going.

Work continues, though more slowly than of yore, - the elements have not been kinder to us since Rod last wrote, though perhaps spring is on the way at last; I'm still looking for the first crocii to appear on site, but they'd have to be hardy submersilles. Andy found a collapsed wall (in suspicious circumstances; could he have pushed it over to plan it more easily?) Penny has left the shelter of her Polyspan, and the cold warmth of her Roman hearth, for the Saxon levels of Milk St., following in Andy's footsteps. Orpah was torn away from 'the kiln', with the promise of greater and better kilns elsewhere; this prize exhibit has now been photographed for posterity (and the DUA) bt Trevor, aided by his side kick Crispin. Sight of the kiln prompted Trevor's suggestion that the DUA might like to preserve it in its entirety,

which led to Crispin's imaginative idea that perhaps the kiln might be preserved 'in situ', with its surrounding stratigraphy. Visions of large hunks of site being cut out like cheddar cheese and transported bodily to the basement by Bedfords....

Thanks to Andy and Dave, the display cabinet of GPO treasures has now been revamped, and the sub-titles rewritten by Dave in his fluid style, (well atleast they teach them to write at Art School, even if they can't draw!), sorry Dave; untrue, untrue, anyway it's a distinct improvement, and a full house is guareteed in front of the cabinet every afternoon.

Well, Milk Street have pinched all our personnel, pilfered our polythene, taken the tea-money, filched the fire, so there's nothing much left but to await the next issue of 'UNDERGROUND' and hope it doesn't contain too many articles like this.

PEDRO

## advertisement

### Jack Barclay ANNIVERSARY YEAR

1976 (MAY) CORNICHE CONVERTIBLE. Ivory with dark brown hood and dark brown hide. Recorded mileage: 14,000	£30,000
1976 (APRIL) SILVER SHADOW LONG WHEELBASE SALOON. Oxford blue with black vinyl roof and magnolia hide. Recorded mileage: 11,000	£21,950
1974 (MARCH) SILVER SHADOW SALOON. Black with black vinyl roof and tan hide. Recorded mileage: 19,000	£18,750
1975 (MAY) SILVER SHADOW SALOON. Regency bronze with dark brown vinyl roof and dark brown hide. Recorded mileage: 18,000	£17,500
1975 (JANUARY) SILVER SHADOW SALOON. Marlborough brown with tan hide. Recorded mileage: 11,000	£17,250
1974 (SEPTEMBER) SILVER SHADOW SALOON. Caribbean blue with beige hide. Recorded mileage: 4,000	£16,950
1974 (AUGUST) SILVER SHADOW SALOON. Caribbean blue with black hide. Recorded mileage: 15,000	£15,750
1974 (MAY) CORNICHE TWO-DOOR SALOON. Coffee bean brown over willow gold with beige hide. Recorded mileage: 18,000	£21,000
1972 (MARCH) SILVER SHADOW SALOON. White with special green hide. Recorded mileage: 28,000	£11,950

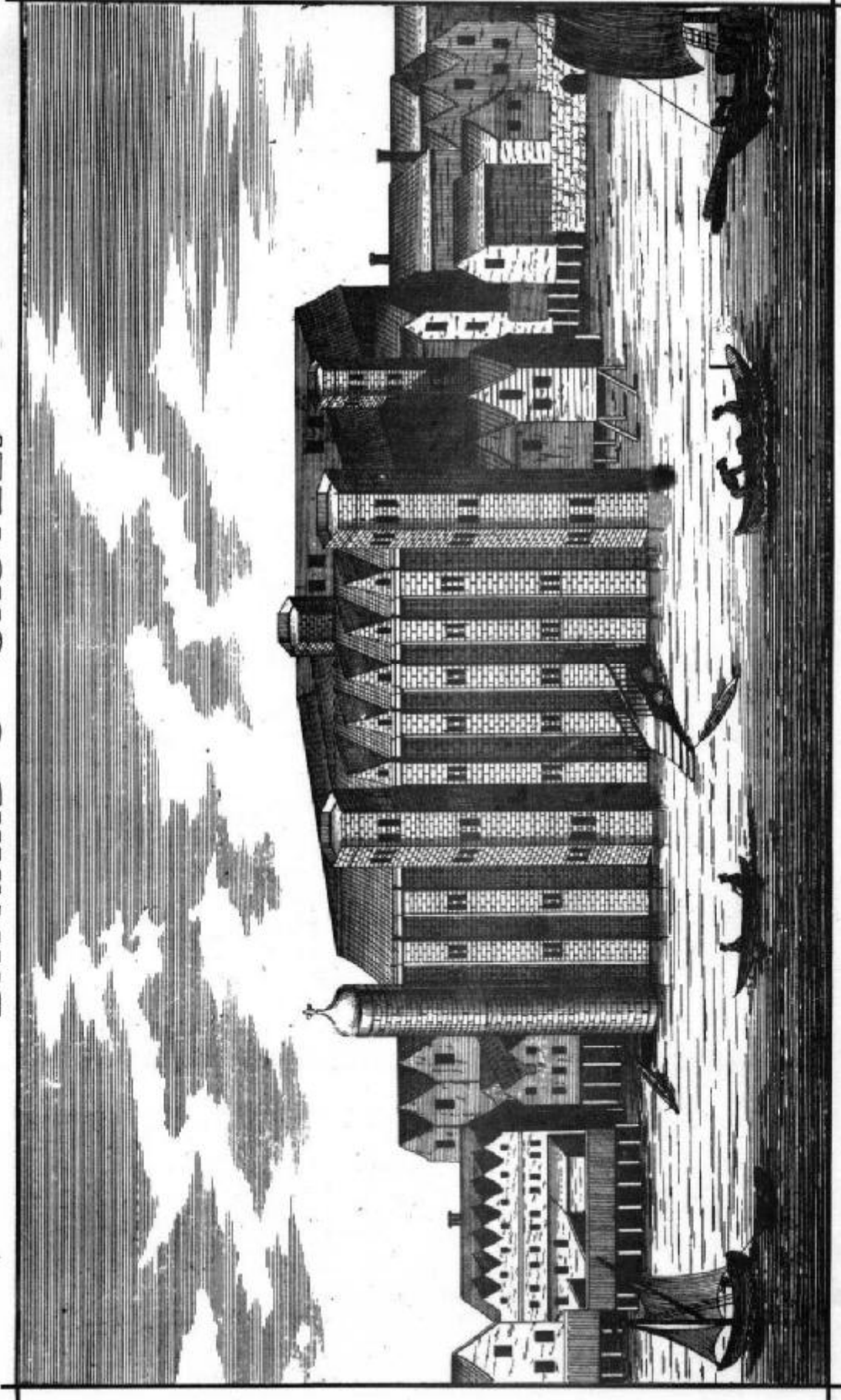


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# BAYNARD'S CASTLE.



FROM  
UNDERGROUND.

from the mat!

asa newt.

A much strengthened, bottom of the table DUA team, still in search of their first victory of the season, were 'pipped at the post' by the 'arch-demons-of-the-board' Southwark in a closely contested contest at the 'Wheatsheaf' on Friday, 18th. February. This hard fought, gruelling battle of no-hopers, (writes hard hitting Asa Newt), in which no quarter was asked and none given, eventually tilted in Southwark's favour, who after half an hour managed to establish a 5-0 winning margin. The DUA's fourth consecutive was the biggest so far this season and goes a long way to show the depth of character of this much changed and much maligned side. Despite the slightly obvious joviality of the Southwark team, kind words of commiseration were as usual offered to our heartbroken team captain by Laura, and the captain promptly resigned. Our former leader, affectionately known as "Le grande white elephant" broke down as rebellion broke out in the ranks, and we have just heard that his masters have sent him to dig cess-pits at Milk St.

## LATE NEWS.

### CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.

By the time you read this John Maloney will probably have done his rounds: distributing clothing vouchers to those eligible. Thanks again John! See you at Millets.

CARTOONS, CROSSWORDS, ARTICLES, JOKES, etc. needed. So come on, help YOUR newsletter! Circulation now tops 100: it reaches far and wide. Any reader, from anywhere, is eligible!

CARTOON SUBMITTED BY SHIRLEY.



"You mean the war's finally over?"

## D.O.E. news.

SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS!

The DoE Central Unit have recently moved into Carlisle to do their first urban excavation. They have a mere 28 days to excavate a site with stratified organic deposits FOUR METRES deep; the first metre contains 15 Medieval occupation levels! This town is built on a bog and is, according to a top DoE man, "A town with enormous potential". He is at present trying to arrange for extra time. - Best of luck chaps.

The Central Unit has a very tough schedule ahead of them: their next excavation is a Roman Saxon Shore Fort in Branchester, Norfolk, after that they're off to Dartmoor to a potential 100 acre site, "...rich in the remains of Bronze Age houses, enclosures and fields dating back nearly 4000 years".

Apparently jobs are always available with this lot: Slaves receive the amazing amount of £15pw clear and get free bed and board. But one must be prepared to live in caravans or tents and be prepared to live in isolation at times.

### AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S SONG.

My wellies stick, my jeans are rent,  
My hat is damp with rain.  
My shovel's stuck, and the glutinous mud  
Is thick upon my mane.  
But my trowel's as bright as my sweethearts eye,  
There's strength in arm and wrist.  
What care I for wind and rain,  
I'm an archaeologist.

CHORUS... Lift your glasses friends with mine,  
The past must not be missed.  
I'm ignorance foe I'm history's friend,  
I'm an archaeologist.

The deepest cess-pit is my home,  
Museums halls, I share.  
A bulk of concrete, iron ribbed,  
and sweet earth smelling fair.  
Let developers only send  
Their men to barely root  
We'll show the past can tell  
As we measure foot by foot.

CHORUS...

Rushing on from site to site  
To be there on the spot.  
A time-pressed warfare we must wage,  
Or it's archaeology's lot.  
Hurrah! to dig is welcome work  
The archaeologist knows  
We're here to rescue history's past  
Before all history goes.

CHORUS...

oooooooooooo

Adapted by ROD from, "THE OUTLAWED RAPAREE".

# TRIG LANE

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY DATED....

In 1973 Martin Biddle declared that "...the potential and requirements of the archaeology of the waterfront present remarkable opportunities as well as the requisite of large scale excavation, and its associated research and publication".

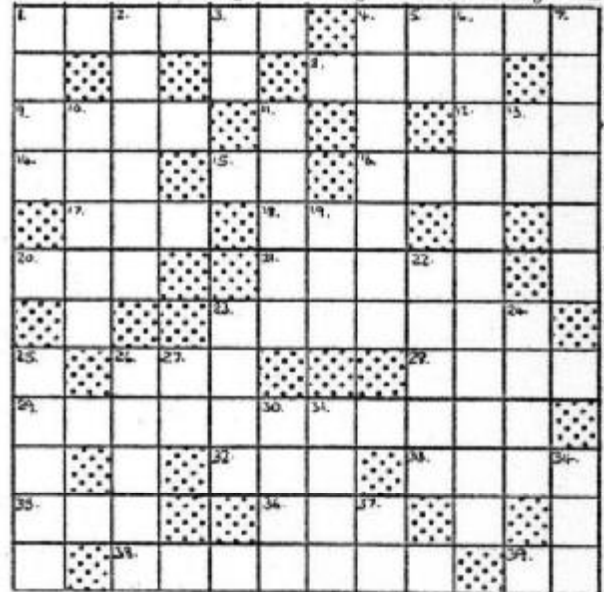
The DUA's subsequent large scale investigation of the embarrassingly rich riverfront stratigraphy has produced results that are already of international importance. However the programme is still unfinished: the Trig Lane excavations must be extended northwards and those at Billingsgate southwards to complete their respective sequences, thereby producing the story of London's development in the depth of detail the City deserves and the deposits allow.

To give some idea of the enormous potential realised by the hard labour of our waterfront team, we are now able to state that Ms. Harding has completed her initial work on the Trig Lane dendro' report enabling us not only to date our eleven principal structures, but also to ascertain how long each one was on active service. The two stone walls lasted some two hundred years apiece, whereas the timber structures had much more varied lifespans. Although the "projection" lasted almost exactly a century and the stave structure- with major modifications after 52 years- functioned for a total of 120 years, the earlier revetments were in use for no more than a maximum of 56 years, and required frequent repairs. Infact the earliest waterfront structure may have lasted for only ten years before substantial alterations were effected.

In this way it is hoped to paint a precise picture of the chronology as well as the mechanics of the City's 20 acre reclamation at the expense of the "fishful Thames".

P.S. Dates quoted must be considered as provisional until final checking is completed, and the introductory quote is from "The Future of London's Past", which is available at your friendly Museum bookshop at knock down prices-  
EVERY HOME SHOULD HAVE ONE! **G.M.**

CROSSWORD compiled by J. Maloney with



help from J.B. Easton.

## ACROSS.

1. It has a past, but what about its future? (6)
4. Archaeologists are renowned for not having them, but their more than happy to excavate them. (5)
7. Up this lane they first found the Governors place. (4)
9. An insane Roman? (4)
12. Sherdn't be difficult to work out this one. (3)
14. One's being built in Greenwich to control the Thames. (3)
15. Clive definitely has a liking for a certain French female 'article'. (2) abb.
16. What an East Countryman might say if he spotted these Ancient Britons. (5)
17. Tatty material for building walls? (3)
18. "How the vest was won?" - I'll drink to that. (3) abb.
20. Magnus Magnusson wouldn't watch it. (3) abb.
21. Bet you're licked by this old one. (5)
23. To mix with royalty? (7)
26. Excavator throws pot - I didn't see its make! (3) abb.
28. It may have lain in the ground a long time, but it's the way to get ahead. (4) anag.
29. A steadfast, youthful Roman Emperor. (11)
32. period? (3)
33. Concert? No it's partly a fiddle, but I'd put my shirt on it otherwise. (4)
35. Last of the tall stories-  
39. onsee upstairs? (3 & 2)
36. Small mischievous horror? it's not impossible! (3)
38. Ride air of rape and pillage? - not on your life! (7) ann.
39. see 35.

## DOWN.

1. Holy -----. (4)
2. A name that captivated English hearts, at the same time as did that of William. (6)
3. Oh no! but nearly a bevine drink - puller of legs? (2)
4. London Transport Rail sub? No use to dead persons. (7) ann.
5. The reverse of an old fashioned general assistant? (2)
6. Sounds like a pub selling heavy beer - on the riverside near Trig. (5-6)
7. The Romans couldn't get enough of it - a case of "The ---- again, please". (6)
10. We really take digging it to heart - what! (5) ann.
11. Egyptian version of Greek early christain symbol? (5)
13. Nearly an old pub. (2)
19. A style wishing to remain anonymous. (3-4)
22. All Greek to me! (5)
23. "It's home my little dove". (4)
24. Not at all rite, but sounds like it could make you cry. (4) ann.
25. Front-man for the legion? - look out!
26. A stratigraphic relationship- over to you? (5)
27. In charge of fish. (2) abb.
30. A desert nomads dry humour? (4)
31. see 19.
34. The opposite of pit- what a load of rubbish! (3)
37. Media conscious or love on site (2) abb.



# MONTHLY MEETING.

february.

## MATTERS AROUSING.

- a. The new Portacabins will be delivered to Trig Lane sometime in March.
- b. Ten Lockers have been ordered by the Museum for the DUA.
- c. Evening Talks: Brian Hobley is to lead a seminar on Staff Motivation.

## REPORTS ON THE DOE GRANTS AND STAFFING 1977-8.

In a staff meeting attended by, Max Hebditch, David Wilson and the Board of Governors, etc. it was decided that there would be NO redundancies next year and the present level of staff will be kept.

- b. The grant for next year will be £110,000; this is the same as this year: no inflation allowance to be made.
- c. There seems to be a possibility of the quota of JCP personnel being raised to 25, discussion with the Manpower Commission is still in progress.
- d. There will be no money in the kitty for volunteers next year.
- e. Two new Supervisor posts are to be created next year; this will be possible when three GA's leave. It was pointed out that one of the posts will be given to someone within the Unit, leaving an ASS vacancy. The other will be advertised, in an effort to bring new blood into the Unit.
- f. £12,000 has been allocated for next years running costs, including plant hire for sites. Because of this limited amount of money, plant, etc. must be considered very necessary before aquisition and ok'd by BH.  
"..very lean period we're going through."- BH.

## EXCAVATION PROGRAMME 1977-8.

- a. Watling Court, (the area bounded by The Skinners, Ye Olde Watling and The Red Lion), is " A major possibility for next year" -BH.
- aa. Subject to one months notice from the contractors, its envisaged that Milk St. will be open for about seven more months.

- b. Trig Lane is to have its ramp finished, the area fenced off and its nice new Portacabins in preparation for the excavation in 1978. It is possible that the area will be smaller than that envisaged for a 1977 start.
- c. It was noted that David Wilson, (Saxon), after visiting the site, suggested that Trig Lane should be finished, because of the importance of completing a full medieval waterfront sequence.
- d. Jim Schofield is to be acting as the F.O. until Trig Lane starts. Or as Mr. Merrifield put it, "acting unpaid". He will also take over the Watching Briefs and may be joined by Steve, for a few months, upon his return from Carthage.
- e. Charles Hill is now working at the Museum; this will be for approx. 3 months. From this day Charles has no responsibility to the DUA, and has, "... no authority on the sites" - BH.
- f. The GPO site is to be phased out, and be finished by the end of March. 1978.
- g. Alan Thompson will be finishing off the Church on the GPO site during the Summer while Steve's away in the desert.
- h. Steve wondered if specific questions had been asked of the GPO, Watling Court and Trig Lane sites, making it possible to balance them.  
NB from BH the day after: Constant and continual review of priorities between all sites is made, but specific questions will have to be asked once Watling Court becomes an excavation.

## EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Besides Good Friday and B.H. Monday there are two optional days. The CUA would prefer the Thurs. preceeding and the Tuesday after, to be taken, but it was decided after discussion that the two days could be taken any-time, but must be arranged with the Supervisor.  
Unfortunately G.A's on the JCP scheme are not entitled to the optional days.

## STAFF RETORTS.

MILK STREET: There is to be a meeting this week to work out a plan of attack; included are: Mike Rhodes (Saxon), Steve Roskams (Archaeology), Jim Schofield (Med), Brian Hobley (Roman) and Andy Boddington (Milk St)

M.M. cont.

- b. Harp Lane is now finished, Andy commended Pip Thompson on an excellent job.
- c. Polyspans are to be erected at Milk Street to waterproof the site, (at last?)
- d. An employee walked of the site and went to the GPO. She was reprimanded by BH but allowed to stay. The CUA said that anyone else doing the same in the future will be dealt with very severely. It was pointed out that the lady did not go because of problems on site or with Andy B.

JIM SCHOFIELD.

Seal House is to be re-written in the light of recent research. (Between Watching Briefs, SSS and FO's duties?)

GPO

Work carries on here with a skeleton staff of three. Because of the reduction in the team the two, possibly three, buildings showing at the present levels are to be dug one at a time.

ALAN THOMPSON.

Aldgate is progressing well. Barbie finished all the figures before her transfer upstairs, "working under Dave Parfit" (her words) with Vanessa.

It was decided at this point that any staff transfers must be discussed at the M.M.

CLIVE ORTON.

Brian Davidson was sympathetic to the need for fittings for the Polstore cabinets and will try to arrange a special grant. Clive and Louise are having a smashing time with the NFW pot, - all is going well.

TREVOR HURST.

Trevor was sick over the flood damage and asked if the rooms were to be re-decorated. BH is seeing to it and was "glad he brought it up". Apparently the insurance for the building only covers fire, and not water damage: let's hope the sprinkler system doesn't go off by accident!

STOP PRESS. Decorating work now approved and estimates being sought - BH.

MIKE RHODES.

Mike has worked out that it will take 15½ person years to draw 8200 finds (ex. pot). A very lengthy discussion by Mr. Merrifield, BH and Mike on the selection of finds to be drawn. All agreed that drawings must be selected... "what is meaningful to the primary objective of the report", - BH.

PETER MARSDEN.

Work is proving very fruitful at Gracechurch St. This Watching Brief - a tunnel 1000'x 3'x4' high is producing some very good information, ie. Roman walls, two phases of pre-Forum structures and an opus signinum floor... on the roof!

STAFF REQUESTS.

- a. It was asked if it would be possible for people who require tetanus jabs on Milk St, to go one afternoon to the hospital. This was OK'd by BH. as long as it is arranged before hand.
- b. It was also asked whether it will ever be possible to be able to extract required finds from the store with the minimum of effort. - no, unless people on site sort it out.

NEXT MEETING... 5th. April.

NB. This report has been checked by BH for factual errors.

## omega.

Homes needed for two frisky felines. Both tabby, Aquarians and male. Ready in six weeks. If your daft enough to want a cat telephone Chrissie either at work- 236-1946, or at home- 278-9047 and ask for Little Treasure or Middledy.

Belated goodbyes to Trevor Dennis.

We have to announce the death of R. Zimmerman. RIP.

Congratulations to John and Cathy Maloney - they're having a baby.

In Service Training Scheme. Charlotte's gone to York, Phil Page late of Oxon. has taken her place here, while Dereck stays in Beds.....

Joanna Aldred leaves today (4th). She has been working as a volunteer for some time now and will be sadly missed. She moves on to the Halifax Building Soc. Best of luck Joanna; from us all.