

# GROUND

MAGAZINE.

UNDER

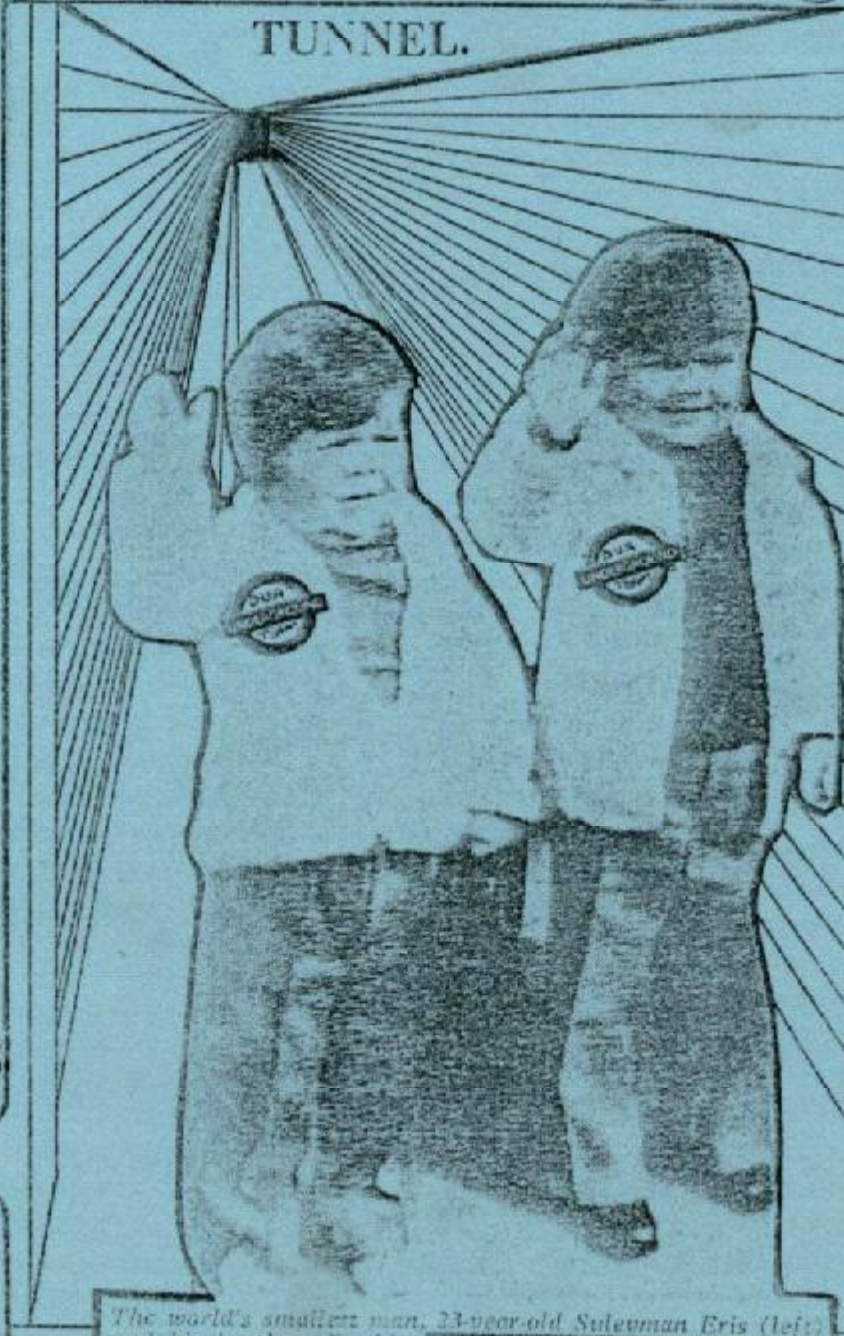
THE

DUA  
STAFF  
NEWS

No. 5.

APR.

GRACECHURCH ST.  
TUNNEL.



The world's smallest man, 23-year-old Suleyman Eris (left) and his brother Ibrahim.

Suleyman is 23 cm; his brother is 175 cm.



# GRACECHURCH STREET TUNNEL

Gracechurch Street is situated on the east side of the city and runs North-South, linking Cornhill and Eastcheap.

Its north end runs directly above what must have been one of the more impressive sights of Roman Londinium; the Basilica, held by Mr. R. Merrifield to have been about 500' long. Previous investigations, on both sides of Gracechurch Street, show it to be a very substantial building, quite befitting the capital of Roman Britain.

We know from earlier records that the Basilica was apsidal and possessed an aisle to the North, with offices beyond that. In front lay the Forum, an open area with colonnades round the perimeter which probably extended as far south as present day Lombard Street, since a whole series of buildings have been recorded in this area. Somewhere about the junction of Gracechurch Street and Lombard Street must have stood a gateway to give access to the East-West road running along to Newgate and so on through Holborn and west of that.

Returning to the more recent past, rumour has it that one of the GA's, Angus Petrie (DUA deceased) was nosing around Gracechurch St. when he came upon three sinister-looking shafts. His archaeological training told him instantly that this was neither a new extension to the Fleet Line nor a fall-out shelter for dwarfs. Further investigation led to the find that the GPO (no, not that one!) were responsible. Luckily for us they decided to drive the tunnel through at Roman levels, almost certainly taking them through the centre of the Basilica in the North and out through the Forum in the South. As three vertical shafts were to be sunk and tunnels 4' X 3' dug off these the opportunity to record and investigate these important Roman levels was taken up by Peter Marsden (Roman).

Assisting Peter and John M. for the first few weeks was Paul, (last seen on Milk Street in the final stages of decompression), then Angus for his last week or so on the Unit. With Angus' "final hour" imminent the word went out from Caesar Augustus that JCP's with infra-red vision were required to draw sections in the dark. As the weather on GPO had been typically abysmal all week, I fancied a change of seam. Competition was fierce, and it was only when a short-list of two had been drawn up I knew I was in with a chance. And so, armed with nothing but a candle on top of my helmet, a canary to test for gas and a ball of string to help me find my way out again, I set out for the underworld.

So far, activity has largely been confined to the Northernmost shaft as the central one is for the most part below the Roman levels, the tunnellers having to avoid a later sewer. Shaft 3 starts about 16' below the existing road level and the tunnellers have re-affirmed the presence of the Forum by striking a wall footing at the bottom of the entry shaft. Inside the tunnel two Forum or post-Forum walls, running E-W, 8m. apart, have been recorded. Associated with these walls, which stand about 1m. high in section, are numerous floors and occupation levels whose significance has yet to be determined. Our old friend, Op. Sig, is there, along with mortar, tile facings and a thick grey puddle clay.

The personalities involved are, PVRM, (Chief Underground Archaeologist), John the Mole (oney) while the scene is being visually recorded in glorious technicolour or Black and White by that intrepid front-line artist of the silent screen, Crispin Jones. Last but not least the three tunnellers, Paddy, Paddy and Paddy.

NEXT MONTH, "DUATERMASS and the Pit".....Don't miss it!!

## PEDRO



## MILK ST. by **ROD**

This last month has been the most demoralising we have so far known. A month ago now, the spoil-heap was at last removed, the huts shifted to the north end, the pits in the central area completed. A month later, the elusive Saxon levels at the north end have been found, and it is clear that some 30c.m. are missing due to the Victorian intrusions. Our brave boys and girls in mud are just about fit enough to recover over Easter from a month of drilling and nacking Victorian stantions and drains. The high morale of January has been replaced, to a degree, by lethergy and apathy.

On the brighter side, by the time you read this, we will have started on the Saxon levels and faces will be smiling again.

The preparatory work done, we are now as ready as we ever shall be. We have a modified recording system to parallel the "prehistoric" excavation technique to be employed on the Saxon, polyspans have been erected and walkways created. It has to be said that despite the tiredness and occasional lapses into apathy, every single member of the staff here has pulled their weight to get the site running, and that cannot be a bad thing. A big thank you also to all the members of COLAS who have tackled the heavy work with great verve over this last month. It has been a fine contribution.

Our staff has been depleted by the removal of David and Esta to the GPO; Penny is to replace Angus and Tizzie who have recently left the Dept. Welcome back to site Paulo and Alison.

'ACCIDENTAL-SLIP-OF-THE-TONGUE'  
of the week....

Mr. Soddington introducing a new volunteer to site:  
"Excuse the language, it's really  
\*\*\*\*\* crude!"

Plastic Spoon of the month goes  
to Peter Marsden, comps. of BR, BBC.

## GPO

Work here is being concentrated on two main areas: a 25m square has been opened up at the North (Angel St) end of the site, while an area about 9x15m is to be excavated at the South (Newgate St) end of the site.

Excavating the north end are, Esta, Orphar, Melvyn and Mr. Wright, who are examining the Medieval levels; these are expected to take five months to complete. After these the Saxon levels associated with the previously excavated 'Long House', will be investigated. Whether will go ahead on the possible Iron/Bronze Age occupation levels will be dependent on the priorities of the time.

Down the south end, digging the Church of St. Nicholas Shambles the team is, Alan, David and Jon-Jon, plus for the next week or two, volunteers; Kaeron, Nick, Bruce and Ros, - who are doing a grand job and proving invaluable. Of course we mustn't forget COLAS members, who put a bit of life into Sundays.

The removal of modern drains, concrete foundations (where poss.) and general overburden is being tackled at the church end and is going well - to the spoil heap, 100 yards away! Removing these modern intrusions is proving (ironically) quite exciting, ?walls/foundations? are showing in the sections and even at a depth of four feet, are showing in plan, thus showing, already, discrepancies in the late Marjorie B. Honeybourne's survey of area.

The time allowed for this area is also five months, and no problems are foreseen to change the schedule.

NB. Next months 'UNDERGROUND' will include a short history of the church (12th-16th century), plus a progress report on both the north and south areas.

## NEXT ISSUE

### Fri. 6th. MAY.



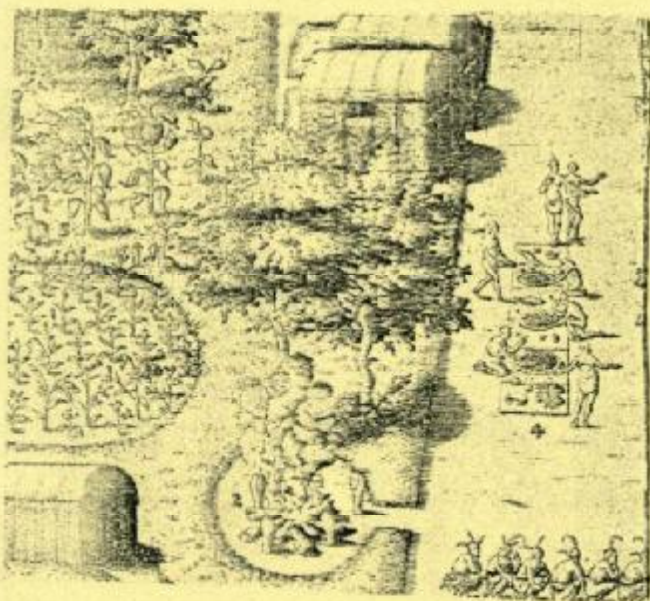
A PRESENT FROM THE OTHER

UNDERGROUND.....

Trig Lane has had a lean time of late: the site was backfilled, and they lost 75% of their team, two site huts and their famous vegetable plot in the process. As a final blow, the promised northern extension -the reason for all the upheaval- has now been postponed again.

To cheer up the remaining report writers, London Transport kindly sent them two luxurious Portacabins from Heathrow Station, the latest little number on the Piccadilly Line.

Writing up is now progressing rapidly in one hut, while Stinker, the site guard dog, is quite pleased with the other.



TRIG LANE:

The arrival of the new huts is celebrated during tea-break.

G.X. for the Co-op.

TIMBER TEACH-IN

"Sessile" Hewett treated the DUA's elite to a thought-provoking seminar on the afternoon of the 6th April, and before you could say "stop-splayed scarf with squint butts off the soffit" he had launched into another lecture, this time on the "Development of Medieval Carpentry" to a packed audience of eager ears. And God help anybody who hadn't done his homework, as he galloped through counter-rebated Saxon doors, dashed up Salisbury Cathedral's scaffolding and pulled apart Paycockes House. The remarkable Mr. Hewett (who drinks lager by the half gallon when he's not building harpsicords) grew up with the smell of wood shavings, and has been crawling around timber buildings ever since, amassing an amazing corpus of carpentological knowledge. We all await with bated breath his forthcoming treatise on Saxon Carpentry in 'Anglo Saxon England', and also the chance to take up his invitation to clamber up Salisbury's spire: a DUA reporter informs us that access to this 8th. wonder of the world was refused last weekend on the grounds that it wasn't summer yet.

G.M.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

Special Exhibition of documents and objects relating to the history of WALTHAM ABBEY from the Saxon church to its re-foundation in 1177, to be held in the church from 27-31 May, 10.00-2.00, Sunday 12.00-18.00.

And don't forget to pop into the Museum at 41 Sun Street while you're there!



from the mat! - asa newt

TRANSFER BLOCKBUSTER...  
ARABS BUY D.U.A.

Steve Roskams, lynchpin of the D.U.A. team's long run of defeats, has been bought by oil-rich sheiks from the Tigers Head pub, Gadaffi Avenue, Carthage for an estimated pint of Riddles County. The D.U.A. may have to replace the erst-while Hawkeye with a rave-from-the-grave. The now balding Charles Hill, exponent of the "play-now-before-your-vision's-blurred" technique, springs to mind, as does the even more balding Alan Thompson, exponent of the "if-we-take-up-ludo-we-can't-lose" theory. Reactions this week (writes hard-hitting no-nonsense Asa Newt) were varied.

D.Stevens: "God help us".

L.Miller: "Pardon?".

Asa Newt: "Where's the bar?".

Clearly the shock has been great. Even more of a shock was that former Generalissimo and D.U.A. Capitano, Whassa Score, has hit the board again this year, but won't be applying for the captaincy again. Asked about the D.U.A.'s recent bad luck, El Dutchy explained: "Yer, well we've 'ad er bitter bad luck recently, but let our record speak for itself. Oh, don't mind if I do Asa.Cheers!" (ASIDE) "Which one's double tops?"

As of 24/3/77 the aforementioned record is:

Played-9; Lost-9; Games for-18; Games against-73.

NEWS FLASH. D.Gadd returning to the captaincy?

## YUK!

William Cady frequented Hyde Park, and it was here that he committed a robbery in extremely brutal circumstances, for which he was hanged 1687. The details are not pleasant, for after a woman swallowed her wedding-ring to prevent him taking it, the callous wretch ran her with his sword and then cut her open to get the ring.

"Highwaymen of London"  
Am. Kent's "Encyclopedia of London".

## JUST THE JOB?

Archaeological Excavation

**Site Director**

**Finds Officer/  
Draughtsman/woman**

**Site Assistant**

Six month's employment offered to experienced Site Director and Finds Officer/Draughtsman/woman for excavation and post excavation work at Woolwich, London from 2nd May. Site adjoins an area excavated in 1974 (17th century Stoneware and Earthenware Kilns); this excavation and the one commencing in May are to be prepared for Publication. Possible extension of service by 3 months.

**Salaries:**

Director	£3775 inclusive p.a.
Finds Officer/Draughtsman/woman	£3505 inclusive p.a.
Site Assistant	£85 per week under Job Creation Project

10 DIGGERS -- will be employed under a Job Creation Programme organised by Greenwich London Borough Council.

Apply for full details to Harvey Sheldon, Archaeological Field Officer for Greater London, Montague Chambers, Montague Close, SE1. Closing date 20th April and interviews will be held at the Museum of London on Monday 25th April.

At a meeting on Friday, April 15th., held to discuss the merits of the advertisement above, the question was asked:

"Brothers, are you with the Woolwich?"

Answer:

"No we're with the DUA!!"

## THANKS

Many thanks to all the contributors this month:

Penny M. for the front page photograph, courtesy of The Irish Times.

Melvyn for the above advertisement, from The Guardian.

Lez for the Letter, Private Eye.

Paulo for "Prucilla".

Gustav for Waltham Abbey.

Plus many thanks to Viv who has helped with the typing, (note the shortage of typing error's.)



## BOOK REVIEW

Apparently, throughout the history of the earth there have been innumerable attempts by other planets within the universe to infiltrate her. In this book, as Erich von Daniken suggests, these interplanetary movements appear to be recorded in ways only noticeable to the expert. After reading this book I am under the impression that an expert is someone who has a good knowledge of archaeology and at the same time is a little mad.

The author suggests that many of these attempts have been recorded, though only in recent years have they begun to be fully understood. "It was not until Professor F. Andrews of Harvard unravelled the mysteries of the tomb painting in the Temple of Edfu near The Valley of the Kings in Egypt in 1964 that we realized the extent of the inter-planet mobility these other beings possessed," he says. "Another example came from scientists in 1943 when they discovered mesolithic cave paintings in Jordan, in the Lowa mountain region, showing a remarkable similarity to the ground plans for Stonehenge, constructed some 4000 yrs later. The most staggering piece of information to come out of Jordan was the fact that the central cave and the heel stone of Stonehenge are directly in line with the Sea of Tranquillity on the moon's surface, for six months a year.

As you can see, the Dr's. list of instances is quite long and much research has been needed. I will give a few more examples of evidence from this remarkable 354 page book. "The Sphinx and the stepped pyramid outside Cairo both face each other; a stone circle in the Swansea Valley, Wales, resembles one in the Orkneys. These cannot be coincidences: there must have been an intermediary liasing with the builders".

In chapter seven he goes on to say, "Another indisputable fact is that the standing stone to the far north of Easter

Island has the same molecular structure as a piece of meteorite that landed in Scotland in 1864."

Chapter eight tells of "a megalithic monument in the north of eastern Germany that has an Egyptian Demotic written inscription that could date as far back as 3000BC."

The list is never ending. For a more detailed explanation plus over thirty photographs, buy the book, 'No Tomb like the Present'. The author is Dr. G. Neus and it's on sale now at any W. H. Smith.

**P.H.DEE**

### H.Q. NEWS.

News from the basement is that great work is being done in the processing room by a regular body of volunteers, namely Mrs. J. Back, Jim Smith, Joan Merritt, Kay Johnston, D. M. Morgan, and also Clodagh and Sheila who will be returning from holiday shortly. Eileen Aust has had to leave for an indefinite period.

Appreciation and gratitude have also been expressed for certain gratuities provided by the aforementioned, particularly those in liquid form which have done something to improve the pallor of complexions untouched by sun and air (sob,sob) and in fact have produced a few red faces for various reasons.

Good luck to the Norfolk Nut who's about to depart for greener pastures up above (something to do with the soil?)

### 'GUESS THE BABY'

A "Guess the Baby" competition has been organised by the Finds dept. If you want to join in the fun, rumage through your old mug shots, select one, and pop it into the little box under the main notice board at the HQ.-- don't forget to sign your name on the list provided. CLOSING DATE is 22nd. April. See you....



Few people are more pathetic and banal than a conjuror who has just revealed how his tricks work. At popular request, I've been asked to do the same out of the same reasonable curiosity and, very probably, with the same net results. But atleast it should reduce the chances of being accused of slight of hand.

Since space is limited, I'm going to stick to one particular query, namely how is an excavated site identified and traced back in the records? The first thing is to consult Harbens Dictionary of London, which is absolutely invaluable. It took Harben a lifetime to compile and although it needs much updating (it was published in 1918) street-name derivations should always be checked in Eckwalls Street-names, it is still an extremely useful body of notes and references. For example it can often help identify a modern tenement or part of a street with a much older tenement with a distinctive name which is easy to check out in the indexes of records. Also, it is always worth referring to John Stows Survey of London (the Kingsford edition, please note, which has a decent index and map)

and to Ogilby's map of 1676-7 which is the first surveyed plan of the City. Now if as a result of these preliminaries, the site turns out to be on a street corner, next to a church, or to a parish boundary, or to a well known property with a long renowned history- or even part of such a property - for example, the GPO sites (relationship to St. Nicholas makes life easier in this respect) the going should be straight forward. But if none of these is the case- if, as happens at least as often, the site is somewhere in the middle of a long row of properties far any distinctive landmarks, then the going gets rougher.

Straight forward or otherwise, the next stage is to work on the HUSTINGS ROLLS,.....

**TONY DYSON**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rod and Gill are holding an Engagement (and Gill's 18th. birthday) party on 30th. April, kick off if at 8.30pm.

All DUA members and partners are welcome.

ADDRESS: 11, Harraden Road, Kidbrooke, S.E.3.

Nearest Stations:

Kidbrooke and Blackheath.

" Tube: New Cross,

New Cross Gate.

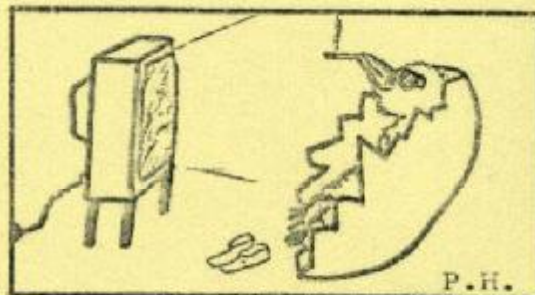
Buses: 53- Camden Town to Blackheath Standard.

21- New Cross to

Lewisham, change to 192 or 89.

Overnight accomodation is available to those in need, at standard rates. BRING BOOZE. The final whistle is about 2.00am.

EASTER  
CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
THE YOUNG MOTHER OF  
MILK STREET  
PRUSCILLA PIGEON  
ON THE BIRTH OF  
APATHY 'N' LETHARGY



Please note that there are only 11 days to the deadline for next months issue of 'UNDERGROUND', the magazine that's UNDERPRICED, UNDERHAND and UNDERBRED. So don't delay-write today. DEADLINE.....28th.APRIL.



# NEW FRESH WHARF

Period 2 covers the Saxon occupation on this site (Areas I and II-New Fresh Wharf- Area III-St.Magnus). In summary this consisted of:

2:1. Post Roman silting covering the Roman waterfront after its destruction. It contained Palestinian amphora sherds.


2:2a. Waterfront construction of a timber-laced rubble bank including large boulders. The western edge was established in Area III revetted by a tree trunk aligned north-south, pegged in by stakes. Thus it was 19m long and 1m high in total. In Area II layers of stakes from a boat lay on top of silver birch posts, found lying flat but possibly from a collapsed revetment. The C14 date from the posts was 760<sup>-</sup> 100 AD. In Area III twelve oak posts projected out of the bank for 1m, possibly supports for a jetty. The bank was levelled at O.D. which suggests that the bank may have been underwater at least at high tide. Posts to the north levelled at +0.60 to +1.40m O.D. may have supported a revetment(? of hurdling).

2:2b. Five irregular rows of oak stakes in an area 3x10m lay to the west of the bank. The west edge was established in the excavation in line with an area of compact mortared rubble that may have been the base for another bank. The total height of these posts, which had pointed tops was a maximum of 4m and an average of 3m, with the lower 1m being chamfered and driven into the foreshore. It is thought that these posts extended into the river but as the trench was only 3m wide north-south this can not be substantiated. C14 date 870<sup>+</sup> 80.

2:3. Silting round the stakes which may have occurred shortly after their insertion. A good group of Saxon pottery comes from these silts.

The rubble bank is most probably part of an embankment against erosion where boats could unload. They might even have sat on top of it, like barges on a 16th. century 'apron'. The bank can perhaps be termed the earliest Saxon waterfront associated with Mercian London 'a mart of many nations' before the Danes. The stakes however seem to be more closely dated to the later Saxon period. They could be Alfred's defences downstream of London Bridge although this suggestion has not been favourably received. They were not mooring posts (no rope burns) nor did they support a super-structure. Posts somewhat similar have been found in Antwerp where their purpose was not known either. Also at Hedeby on the Baltic a multi rowed arc of stakes went out round into the harbour, completing the defences of the Viking town.

## LOUISE

  
*Private Eye*

### Letters

VAT

Sir,

*I was delighted to receive a 24 page booklet - VAT NEWS No 12. The etching on it interested me: there is the Crown of England, below which is an iron prison-like portcullis, with great iron chains hanging each side.*

*How delighted I was to turn the pages and discover the following good news:*

**CESSPOOLS**

*With effect from 1st January, 1977, the emptying of cesspools, septic tanks and similar receptacles, and the conveyance of their contents to sewage disposal plants is zero rated.*

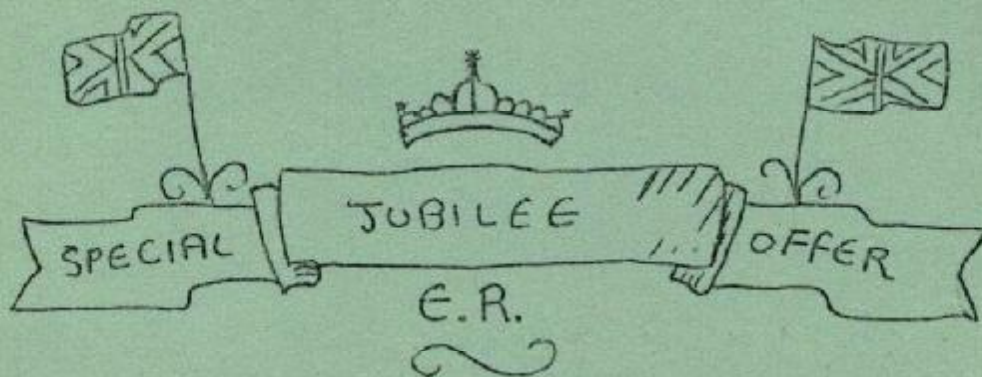
*I am sure that all your readers will gain great relief with this interesting news, in this our Queen's 25th Anniversary year. Who said England was finished - me, for a start.*

*Sincerely,*  
**SPIKE MILLIGAN,**  
9 Orme Court, London WC2.

*P.S. Print this letter or I will sue you.*

from LEZ





DO YOU HAVE A TASTE FOR HORROR....AND FREE BOOSE???

Barbie and Sal invite you to a reception  
with a difference at the Loyola Hall,  
Stamford Hill from 6.30 to 11.30.

Mellow yellows and Welly boots only. Please leave trowels at  
the door.

ALL WELCOME

RSVP to Barbie in the crypt



# OMEGA

Many apologies to Alan and his wife, Jan. They celebrated their 14th. wedding anniversary last month on the 9th. March and we forgot to mention it! Tch. Tch.

Omega last month mentioned that John and Cathy were having a child. This month we're pleased to announce that they've bought it a flat in West Dulwich: they moved in over Easter.

We lost two field staff last month: Angus, who's gone off to the Polish/Russian border digging, and getting more money than us!

And Andy Tizzard, who's gone off to Romantic Holborn to work for Dixons Photographic Shop: is his character developing?

Andrew Jones, Fishbones expert, is leaving us in the middle of May. He's off to York.

Brian Hobley is to give a talk on "Staff Motivation" on Wed. 20th. April.

B. Hobley has been quoted as saying, "Trig Lane will be dug!"

London was featured as a Mercian Town in a recent Oxford Univ. Conference.

Remember last month we mentioned the DoE at Carlisle? One of their more interesting features is the discovery of a complete Roman barrel.

Mr. Jeff Parnell, ex-superstar of the DUA, has recently been found in possession of 'hard' pornographic magazines. Asked where he got them he replied: "We found them; they must have been the builders'". Incidentally, if you want to see the wall, give Jeff a ring and he will arrange it. PS. If you look behind the Raven's cage, on the left, facing the river, you will find them in a plastic finds bag.

Mike has expressed an interest in Barbie's and Vanessa's profiles- their drawings aren't bad either.

## FORESHORE NEWS.....

The self-styled spokesman for the foreshore diggers works for the Science Museum. He is specialising in Cutlers' Marks. He sounds pretty sharp.

If you are worried about making mistakes, forget it, everybody does. Take Sonia Butcher, for instance. Back in 1955 she put a couple of trenches down at the Tower and discovered what she thought was a Medieval wall. 22 years later, after a closer look, it's now positively identified as a Roman riverwall, dated to no earlier than 392AD. It could be said to show the merits of 'Keyhole' archaeology.

## OXFORD COURSE.....

Next year only one place is allocated to the DUA: applications to be sent in now.

It's many moons now since our old friend and colleague Peter Ellis left the DUA and set off for CRAAGS in the S.W. Well, we are happy to report that he is doing very well and has recently been appointed THE Development Officer for the area. Peter is still married, still has one child and lives at Cannington, Somerset. Nice one, Pete. ENVY, ENVY.

1	L	2	O	3	N	4	D	5	O	6	N	7	B	8	A	9	T	10	H	11	S
12	A	13	O	14	X	15	B	16	U	17	S	18	H	19	A						
20	N	21	E	22	R	23	O	24	C	25	R	26	R	27	I	28	M				
29	D	30	A	31	M	32	F	33	A	34	I	35	C	36	E	37	N	38	I		
39	R	40	A	41	G	42	I	43	P	44	A	45	E	46	A						
47	I	48	T	49	A	50	R	51	E	52	L	53	I	54	C	55	N				
56	H	57	C	58	O	59	N	60	S	61	O	62	R	63	T						
64	S	65	U	66	F	67	O	68	N	69	A	70	I	71	L						
72	C	73	O	74	N	75	S	76	T	77	A	78	N	79	T	80	I	81	N	82	E
83	O	84	D	85	E	86	R	87	A	88	C	89	E	90	R	91	T				
92	U	93	S	94	E	95	I	96	M	97	P	98	S	99	I						
100	T	101	R	102	A	103	I	104	D	105	E	106	R	107	S	108	U	109	P		

ANSWERS FOR LAST  
MONTH'S CROSSWORD