

# GROUND

MAGAZINE.

UNDER

THE

**DUA  
STAFF  
NEWS**

No. 6.  
may

NEW HUME

FOR

HEBDITCH!

FULL REPORT AND INTERVIEW WITH OUR NEW DIRECTOR  
ON PAGE NINE.....



# MONTHLY MEETING - MAY

## MATTERS AROUSING

The present economic crisis means that the DUA is forced to operate in what Mr Hobley described as "a C5th situation". It was therefore not surprising that money was the topic oft referred to in the May Monthly Meeting.

JCP's will receive their recently negotiated clothing allowance in cash instalments, and their new rates of pay are to come into effect as from April 18th., but the DUA staff must wait until July for their annual increment.

A seminar for the unit's creme de la creme, Acting Field Officer, etc., will be held on Thursday 12th. to motivate them into cost effective action. All requisition sheets must be costed before they receive the Royal Assent, and all bulk must be ordered early. The economics of metallic grid points was bitched about and the possibility of volunteer labour at £15 a week in the summer was welcomed.

The much heralded Domenbring-your-own-tent-training programme was launched: Mr Thompson and Mr Schofield were selected as, apparently, being most in need. For the rest, Mr Hobley thought a reciprocal inter-unit musical chairs scheme would be feasible, in which a Yorkist could temporarily swap jobs with a Londoner, Lincolnite or whatever. This idea is to be applauded and encouraged as it would increase experience and diminish parochialism at a stroke. The thirst for knowledge is such that four members begged leave to attend a forthcoming lecture on neutron activation analysis at the City University.

Much concern was shown on the question of health and safety, as well as considerable ignorance. The Unit has no Safety Officer

for example, (point of information any employer with "more than 20 people..... is required to specifically appoint in writing one or more safety supervisors.." under Part II, para 5 of the Buildings (Safety Health Welfare) regulations 1948. Under regulation 56 of the same Act the reports compiled by the Safety Officer after examining "...every part of an excavation.. at least once a day...shall be at all reasonable times open to inspection by any of H.M. Inspectors of Factories.")

The M.L.8s first aid room - you'll be thrilled to know - is on the 7th floor and is, of course course, usually locked. The mass request for tetanus jabs was passed this month to Dr Schofield who will look into it, but Barts hospital is not far away and they'll do it while you wait.

Among the various staff changes mentioned we are sorry to report that Shirley is leaving us soon; Ann Foreman will take over becoming the Unit's very own warder cum proof-reader. Crispin has also snapped out of it, and will be replaced by an anonymous polytechnical emigré. The loss of Andy "fish-fingers" Jones is a tragedy of oceanic proportions for London for he is the foremost brain in his field; luckily he has agreed to continue work on DUA samples while at York. But worse was to come as George himself, corner-stone of our environmental institution since God knows what, announced (under pressure) that he was "actively considering resigning". However, Jane is seeing to his seeds and Philip Armitage will join us under a DOE contract in October with Gillian providing support for his bones.

continued next page.....

## TOP FIVE LONG PLAYING RECORDS FOR MAY.

1. Don't cry for me British Archaeology - Martin Biddle.
2. Rip off this joint. - Cecil Hewit.
3. Four days a week. - Brian Hobley.
4. Loving me, loving me. - Andy Boddington.
5. Nowhere man. - Charles Hill.

Compiled from the latst Malody Maker.

Marylee Parrot, who conserves the DUA's bits and bobs with Liz, joined the celebrities, Heads of States, etc. at this meeting for the first time, and told a tale of pure horror while describing the conditions in which her team work. She has, for example, been moved six times in three days while workmen attempt to construct a ventilation system and other basic lab amenities they forgot to put in a couple of years ago.

Reports from other sections were somewhat less dramatic. Tony's work on Angel Court is concluding and attention is shifting to the Waterfront pleasing at least two people. The problems of church excavation were raised, and two potential sites - one a bastion and the other in the Fleet ditch (fascinating) - were mentioned. Harp Lane is being worked on on Sundays, Pete Glass's drawing-frames rule OK., and Milk Street is taking longer than was bargained for in recent logistical lectures - did they bite off more than they could spit?

The current issue of "London Archaeologist" carries Louise's exciting article on her Saxon waterfront; on the GPO site both Alan and Esta, Orpah and Melvyn are producing medieval walls; Trig Lane reported on its report; and somebody left a parade ground under Gracechurch Street.

Meanwhile, back at the Basement Clive reported that Chris, Sara and Pamela were doing Triangular Roman pottery, while Mike read a list of specialists (described as being of MGM epic proportions) for the rest of the odds and sods. Mary was last seen getting into Roman leather-wear and George found an outlet for his exotic roman material as well as discovering a trough in the C1st. and C2nd. in an obscure Dutch journal.

The date for the next round was fixed for Thursday 2nd June instead of the usual Tuesday as the DUA's contribution to Jubilee Year.

**GUSTAV**

## NFW

PERIOD 3. Late 10th/early 11th Century.

3.I. Clay bank based on timber and brushwood.

In the original New Fresh Wharf trench an area 6.70 x 4.25m was covered by a brushwood matting with a line of rubble, posts and planks forming an east-west revetment at the southern limit of the bank but was never excavated as absence of shoring meant that the 6m trench had to look like an inverted pyramid with stepped out sides. Two layers of clay based on rough box-like arrangements of logs and planks covered the matting. There was then a second thin layer of twigs on which was based an east-west revetment of rubble and hurdling 2.50m north of the southern lower revetment. Behind the hurdling the main clay bank rose up a height of 1m, up to +2.06m OD.

The embankment continued in St Magnus trench though the timber used was oak and there were examples of Anglo-Saxon carpentry in the many re-used planks forming the base. 5m from the east end of the trench a north-south line of hurdling was probably a property boundary. In form and date this embankment closely resembles the 'Anglo-Danish' bank along the Foss in York,\* which has been described as preventing the area from flooding and 'an embankment at which ships could unload'.\*\* It also resembles a clay bank in Oxford which possibly formed a causeway on lowlying ground in the 8th/9th century.\*\*\*

\* Katherine Richardson. Archaeological Journal, 1959.

\*\* M. Biddle. "The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England", 1976.

\*\*\* T. Hassall. Excavations in Oxford, 1971. Oxoniensia Vol 37 1972.

**LOUISE**

# GRACECHURCH STREET TUNNEL

## Episode Two The Creature from the Black Earth.

Join now our intrepid explorers as they leave behind daylight and the workaday cares of the business world above-Threadneedle Street, Goodbye! Shaft 3 beckons, and who knows what horrors lurk beyond its gloomy portals at this eleventh hour (ie. tea-break). Perhaps another dead sewer, black mouth full of noisome vapours (must remember to take along a tooth-brush next trip...) or could it be, horror of horrors, a burst main, suspending its potent secretion of the deadly H2O above our heads as we pass, bringing back distant memories of the finds hut or the polyspans on the GPO site after a shower. No, the ultimate terror is upon us, from beyond..... the dreaded lurking fungi, quick to spread its green, slimy tentacles along roof and side shoring, obliterating all trace of man and archaeologist alike- who would ever know that John Maloney once cleaned up a section there, or that PVRM sketched in a transient tunnel face before it was lost to the hungry teeth of Paddy's drill (never mind John, at least your section has been preserved for posterity by the Post Office, thoughtfully shrouding it in concrete). Anyhow, after epic battles with the demons of the underworld we return you to the DUA studios for the latest Darts report:-  
SOUTHWARK 750; DUA 01

In a more serious vein (ahaarrh, John lad, we've struck gold at last, shiver me pitprops; we can retire from the DUA and hang up our trowels .....). The tunnellers really have shifted a great deal of spoil since I last wrote, and the tunnel going

.....). The tunnellers really have shifted a great deal of spoil since I last wrote, and the tunnel going North from Shaft 2 met that going South, on about the 21st. April. This was an achievement, in that the southernmost tunnel had been forced to dive down to avoid a live sewer and the northern one thus had to drop in level to meet it. On a previous occasion, the two tunnels had been out by as much as a metre, but this time they met up with uncanny accuracy.

To meet up, the northern tunnel had to be driven not far short of 200 feet and the southern one about half that distance. It was suspected that towards the junction of Gracechurch and Lombard Street, the tunnels might well run through the remains of the South gate or Portico of the Forum, given the concentration of remains already found in that area. Sure enough, walls, foundation structures and robber trenches were found, along with some quite complicated stratigraphy, showing that our findings will shed more light on the south side of the Forum area, once the recordings have been more carefully scrutinised and the measurements taken have been used to help determine structural relationships.

For the moment though, the north tunnel being driven from shaft 3 is being held up due to the discovery of not one but two sewers blocking its path.

See wer next issue.....

Do not forget your ANTI-TETANUS jab on Thursday. 19th. May. 2.15pm. onwards at the H.Q.

Don't be glum it's in the arm, not the bum!

C  
P  
O

Thanks to COLAS there is now a 'site' as opposed to a spoil tip at the North End. Initial stripping of modern debris has revealed three medieval walls with associated brickearth floor levels and a possible chalk-walled cess pit. One wall was built in chequer-board

pattern with alternating chalk blocks and flint nodules. The other main wall (probably exterior) was of ragstone and reinforced at a later date with a chalk wall. A large gravel surface to the west of the building would suggest a yard or alley.

**ESTA**

## MILK STREET

As this has been a short month (in UNDERGROUND terms; but far too long in monetary terms) I thought I would take the opportunity to describe the present excavation techniques.

At present we are investigating the infamous 'black earth' deposits which, owing to their indefinable nature, are requiring an excavation technique similar to that of prehistoric sites. This involves digging in 5 cm. spits and planning at every level; these plans only show vague differences, ie. a change from a 'dark grey humic silt' to a 'dark green humic silt', but often these changes do show quite a distinct line. Already (after only 2-3 spits on one area) a couple of possible pits (or whatever one likes to imagine them as) have started to take shape and as we keep the finds from every square metre separate we are able to date any feature which eventually comes to light.

Well, so much for that, and whether you understood a word or not you may be interested to know that Penny R. has left us for Sunny Woolwich (they don't last long at the DUA!) Incidentally, talking about birds wot have flown, "Apathy" and "Lethargy" (Milk Street's own Pidgeon Pie) have left us in order to whitewash Nelsons Column. Finally, all that's left to say is that our new Sunday Volunteer, Sue, looks like being accosted by our own Punk, Andy B., so keep your eyes peeled and your head down.

## PAOLO

PPS.

As usual the gossip's forgotten. Clement Dufor, our French-Canadian cousin, leaves us soon to go and dig on a site somewhere in Europe. There is no truth in the rumour that he's sick of us "English phlegmatic pigs"; the truth is that the other side pays more.

Rod and fiancée Jill gave a party in Charlton (as in Athletic) a couple of weekends ago and, as usual, the DUA folk were well represented (meaning truly pissed). Congrats to the lucky couple of course and we're sorry about the carpets - wot's left of them.

## LEZ

## TRIG LANE

The big Trig story this month concerns our Cathy: she left last week amid a flurry of tears and a mouthful of chocolate cake to bring forth her first-born any day now; up to date bulletins available on request from John "Millets" Maloney. The happy couple thought that their brand new home in delightful Dulwich was a real steal, a sentiment apparently shared by the burglars who broke in and whipped their telly within days of our hero persons moving in. (Still, ther're used to it - they was robbed 6 times in Richmond). Anyway, we wish all the family well, and further congratulations to Mummy Maloney for starring in a recent book on making money!

Meanwhile, progress on Trigalia continues unabated with Chrissie's artistic talents flowing all over the Permatrace, while the new huts were being painted off-white as a change from off-white. And finally, good news for lovers of surplus soil samples: a peaty poly bag languishing on the spoil heap was found to contain a pilgrim's badge and a token, when examined by Ms Harding recently, which all goes to prove.

**GM**

## FILM NIGHT

Does Russel make you retch, Zefferelli make you suicidal? If your answer is yes to at least four of these questions this is for you. If you like films no more profound than "The Pink Panther Strikes Again" then join the DUA Cinephile Group. Membership free. We meet most Thursdays at The Red Lion so why not string along; you could be instrumental in deciding whether we commit suicide, retch or go to the last 20 Oscar winning epic. Join NOW and don't be disappointed.

Contact Penny Mac. or Viv at the Basement for details.

Many thanks to Viv and Pamela for all their help with the typing. Any contributions for next month please put in the GPO tray or give them to me.

Ta, Ta for now, John Burke-Easton.

## FISH BONES AND LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY.

Before taking the trail north to York it occurred to me that somebody somewhere might be interested in what I've been doing. The simple answer is looking at fish bones and helping George. I'll talk only of fish remains.

Most important is finding them. Hand picking trowelled soil doesn't produce representative samples. Thus Geoff is processing large quantities of soil in the 'flot' tank with excellent results. If, while trowelling, a cache or concentration of small bones is observed, the best thing to do is to suggest that a sample be taken.

Having obtained good groups the most basic information available is which species are present on the site. Calculations of meat weight, season of death, etc. are possible but are of limited value on urban sites where it is impossible to know what proportion of the bones are being recovered.

Identification is complex. Approximately 150 species of fish occur in British waters, though about 30 turn up regularly in archaeological deposits. With such a range of species, differences between skeletons (which all do the same jobs of muscle attachment and support) are subtle. Nevertheless, with the help of good reference material all but fin-rays and spines can be identified.

Apart from the introduction of chips as a necessary accompaniment, the fish eating habits of Londoners haven't changed a lot over the years. Cod, herring, whiting, plaice and eel occur most commonly in Roman and Medieval levels. Dogfish and skate (Elasmobranchs) turn up regularly; but having cartilage (rather than bone) for a skeleton, rot quickly and are probably under-represented in the archaeological record. Other marine fish from London include mackerel, gurnard, conger eel, haddock, sturgeon, ling, sea bream, shad, scad and smelt.

Pike is the most common

freshwater fish which is likely to have been much use food-wise. Salmon is fairly rare and are unlikely to have competed with marine fish for the status of 'staple fish'. Small freshwater species, eg roach, perch, dace etc. are fairly common. They are not considered to be very good table fish but may have been an ingredient of soups or stews. It is obvious that fish are important as a food source; they can also be used in industrial processes, eg the manufacture of glue. Sticklebacks have been found in Southwark, where they probably represent the ancient natural fauna of the area.

Of the sites in the City a C16th. drain near the Mermaid Theatre produced 15 species including sturgeon. It is hoped to relate this group to documentary evidence. The majority of the bones from a small site in Westminster Abbey compared well with a contemporary kitcheners roll. However a number of bones from exceptionally fine food fish (turbot, sturgeon and John Dory) betrayed the high standards of diet that the poor, humble, chaste monks enjoyed.

Many of the deposits sampled from New Fresh Wharf contained large quantities of residual pottery and probably also residual fish, bones, seeds, etc. Nevertheless the few discrete Roman levels indicate that marine fish were most abundant, thus an off-shore fishery was supplying London in the first and second centuries AD. Evidence from Southwark corroborates this evidence, although large amounts of smelt (a small offshore marine fish) bones were recovered. As yet only a few smelt bones have been found on the north bank of the Thames. This is almost certainly due to the differing methods used either side of the river. Smelt bones slip through the meshes used in flotation tanks; the ones we have found have come from the detailed examination of soil using fine sieves.

ANDREW JONES

Straightforward or otherwise, the next stage is to work on the Husting Rolls, kept at the city records office. In theory at least these rolls record every will and deed relating to property in the city from about 1250 until the sixteenth century, during and after which they were used increasingly less often for the purpose. Accordingly they provide the basic framework for the reconstruction of the descent of property from owner to owner, although of course additional bits of information may often be available from other sources. There are about two hundred rolls for this period, and each contains as many as two hundred and fifty deeds. Each roll consists of strips of parchment, usually about four feet long, sewn together at one end and then rolled up together. This was a very common arrangement in the middle ages: the earliest English example, dating from the mid-twelfth century, are known as pipe rolls from their appearance when wrapped up. The

Husting Rolls are much smaller and dumber than this—more like toilet rolls, in fact. Indeed the first fifty of them are exactly like this— one long continuous roll which requires a lot of unrolling if the deed happens to be near the inside end. But the later ones bound up in manageable strips, are surprisingly affective in use.

Each of these rolls has been numbered, and each deed within individual rolls is also numbered consecutively from beginning to end hence references like 123 (231): 231st deed in roll 123. A manuscript index has been painstakingly compiled in five large manuscript books. Four of these index the principle persons mentioned in the deeds; the fifth indexes places and is subdivided under headings such as (named) tenements (e.g. Leadenhall), parish churches, parishes, streets, wharves, etc. There are also calendars which give a brief summary of each deed and indicate its location.

Tony Dyson.

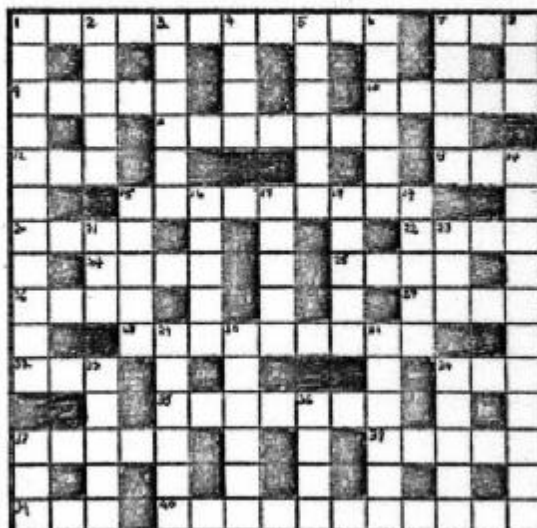
DOWN

1. Hit prices or change to get back to old times. (11)
2. He's always against you! (5)
3. God of Roman farmers. (6)
4. Author of "The Art of Love"- Latin version! (4)
5. Prolong. (6)
6. If Greece and Cyprus 7, this would be the result. (6)
7. See 6. (5)
8. For veiling may be worn by agnostics. (5)
9. C - appropriately! (5-6)
10. The walls get excited and the result is worldwide! (5)
11. Early son made early use of this. (5)
12. A converted lease supports the work of the artist. (5)
13. Sure sign that a book has not been read. (5)
14. One side of 25. (5)
15. Either way it's a joke! (5)
16. Reclining nudes cover it! (5)
17. Old Testament prophet. (6)
18. One of the nuts. (6)
19. Get a move on! (6)
20. Serious. (5)
21. Royal pet. (5)
22. Mail misdirected in Peru. (4)
23. In excellent shape. (5)

ACROSS

1. Nice to sleep for a change- before starting to dig deep? (11)
7. Often found in early 30s. (3)
9. From Greta - straight up! (5)
10. Layered vegetable? (5)
11. Strippers' uniform! (7)
12. A proverbial stringer. (5)
13. Part of a pitcher - lent by humans? (5)
15. Where Pompeii was found! (2,3,4)
20. You need guts for these! (4)
22. Getting on. (4)
24. His voice changed a lot - or did it? (4)
25. Very desirable find. (4)
26. Russian Port. (4)
27. Ancient board game. (4)
28. Stones provided by Gale Smith weigh more than 141lb, each! (9)
32. Big or little it's usually important. (5)
34. It takes two to tango but you need three of these to dance. (5)
35. Often contains 33 and sometimes 20. (7)
37. Gun, light, or Harry? (5)
38. Punctuation. (5)
39. A 38 in this could be gout! (3)
40. Old wall flower. (5,8)

COMPILED BY JIM SMITH OF FINDS.



# OMEGA

To appease the appetites of DUA book buyers, Dillons are expanding their Hist. and Archaeol. department.

Have you applied for Your chance to join the Oxford University IN-SERVICE TRAINING SCHEME yet?? Don't forget that the DUA has only one place to fill this year, so make sure it's YOU - don't miss the chance of a lifetime to see the Home Counties. Our Des is at present in Eboracum, Charlotte got bronzed at the Ashmolean Museum, while Bobby Bell, one of last year's students, has gone to Aberdeen, which is up there somewhere. And while we're on the subject, a big hello to Peter Locke, who has just joined us as part of this year's course.

It is of interest to note that a JCP scheme was apparently in operation in 1519, when digging took place in "the common ditch between Aldgate and the postern next the Tower ditch. The chief ditcher had by the day 7 pence, the second digger 6 pence, the other ditchers 5 pence. And every vagabond (for so they were termed) 1 penny the day, meat and drink at the charges of the City". We are grateful to John Stow for sending us that information.

As his contribution to Jubilee Year, Peter Ship Ahoy Marsden hopes to find the Golden Hind (Drake's little winner), which he believes sank without trace in a housing Estate in Deptford.

Sincere apologies to Anon., whose splendid article on Roman statues was unfortunately mislaid on the way to the printers; could we possibly have an action replay?

GM

The Queen will go by coach (her own, not National), to St. Paul's on Jubilee day, Monday 7th June. She will walk via the north side of the Churchyard and Cheapside to the Guildhall for a nosh and return by coach to Buck' House at about 3pm. The police are confident of up to 400,000 people from all walks of the land, and they will be directed along Newgate Street. A scheme is afoot to open the GPC; if each person gave 1p.....

J Schofield

The Architecture Recording Group (ARG) (Trevor, John B., Louise, Vanessa, Crispin and myself) went off to record our first building last weekend: the 15th. century tower of St. Mary the Virgin (sic) at Stanwell, just south (and only just) of Heathrow Airport. We recorded in pencil and film the chequerwork, which was being rather rudely restored. Tea at the Vicarage and a quick commission for me as a baptismal photographer (the real one having scarpered) followed.

J Schofield

Not only was Barbies birthday missed last month (tut,tut,) but the date of her and Sal's Great Day was omitted (tut,tut,tut) on their invitation....28th May.

The first of many? JCP's have gone on strike at an archaeological site in Gwynedd; they were asked to work for a couple of weeks up to their knees in water. But maybe there is more to this meets the knees?

ANY SEX PLEASE - WE'RE IRISH

Viv and Penny - those two scintillating supergirls of the Finds Dept. are about to seek a flat together. DO YOU KNOW OF ONE THAT WILL SHORTLY BE VACANT? Or better still, would any of you care to join forces with them and get a large flat or house?

The young ladies can be contacted at No.71.

Don't all rush at once.

After a small Dua group went recently to Jabberwocky ('good clean fun'; 'the audience will run and run') John Schofield was told to do it again, John. So he's open to suggestions for outings, trips and other frolics that might be organised in the near future. He's already on to a wine-tasting in the dungeons of the Wood St. debtors' prison, the Compter (c.1555), discoteques in the Guildhall crypt (1411 and later: recommended reading - Pevsner, Royal Commission, Stranglers' Fan Magazine), and guided tours of the British Museum.