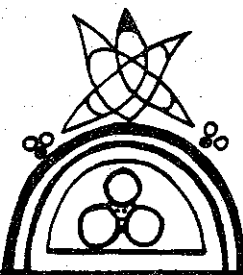


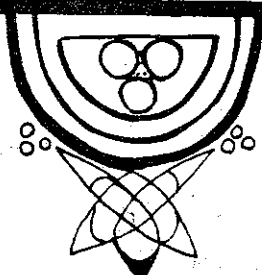
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THE  
EERLY  
RISPER



OLD UNCLE  
TOM HOBLEY AND HILL



IN WHICH WE COME OF AGE

It is but 21 issues since the 5 copies of our First Edition saw the light of day on April 18th, 1974. We shall officiously strive to keep alive for a further 21 issues, bringing to our vast readership the Truth, the Whole Truth and other jokes as they happen. May we take this opportunity to bestow our thanks on all our contributors past and present, and to bless you, dear reader, for the pleasure of your patronage.

A Contract of Self-Employment, & Other Matters.

At the monthly meeting held on Tuesday, the first tentative proposals from the Powers That Be concerning those famous staff contracts for 1975/6 were aired. It was immediately decided that no decision should be taken until the matter had been thoroughly discussed at ALL levels. The package being offered at the moment is as follows: Subject to accommodation, money etc. being available, paid work will be guaranteed for a team of 22 persons to excavate, process finds and prepare material for publication on a permanent basis. The following rates will be applicable per annum: S.S.1 @ £2,496: S.S.11 @ £2,220: A.S.S. @ £1,824: SA 1 @ £1,560: SA #1 @ £1,200. No deductions will be made for tax, or stamps, no sick pay is envisaged, but between 15-18<sup>SAY'S HOLIDAY</sup> will be allowed, and overtime paid were applicable. One months notice either way is anticipated.

This offer is not, therefore, a contract of employment, as our 'employer' does not deduct tax at source, make National Insurance contributions etc: we would continue to be Self-Employed (Class II) making our own arrangements with the Inland Rev. and so forth. It was even suggested that our 'employers' are avoiding their responsibilities to us by perpetuating the 'Lump' fees and subs. system.

This offer cannot be considered as a Contract of Employment but it is an attempt to guarantee work for a permanent team (subject to the conditions stated above, which normal, efficient management should be able to meet): IT OFFERS as great a measure of JOB SECURITY as we are likely to get in these recessive times PLUS PAID HOLIDAYS FOR 22 PEOPLE. For those who like comprehensive contracts (and there are some rank and file members who don't), this offer will be seen as little advance, if any, on the present unsatisfactory system. The final decision is ours: we can accept it as a temporary transitional measure, disregard it totally, press for full contracts, or whatever.

And so to the other Diggers Questions:

Charles agreed to talk things over with Alan, his Co-director, but the principal that Brian and Charles have the right to alter on-site digging policies if and when they see fit was laid down. Such decisions may be noted in the final reports. We now have clearance to dig NFW 11, but the trenches(?) have yet to be finalised. Tim Tatton-Brown will probably (hopefully!) lead the team. The CUA has agreed in principal to look into the very worthwhile possibility of making financial provision to enable certain diggers to attend courses/ conferences. Easter is to be worked as per a normal week-end.

Also discussed was the Library Basement Battle, which still rages: if we fail (Heaven forbid) then Old Faithful Seal House is the next best thing, although more expensive and inconvenient. The 1975 Publication Programme steams on, a pump is on the way, and greater responsibility and care of equipment was demanded. Trevor pointed out the importance of keeping the photographic record cards up to date, and BBC8s Peter Fowler will be recording "The Changing Past" with the DUA on March 24th, so be warned.

And finally, while on the subject of archaeological conferences, as Tony "Spoonerisms" Dyson said: "Is Brian really going on a horse to Cartford?"

\*\* The C.U.A. comments: It should be noticed that active discussions are taking place with the Director regarding the creation of established posts for the Scientific Officer, Site Supervisors and Assistant Site Supervisors. 2/2

The much-advertised site continues to be "hacked out" as per the specific instructions of several of the directors. Somewhat belated research has suddenly revealed plans of St. Nicholas Shambles and associated area (chalk walls turned up on Feb. 14th) and the possibility of gardens in the northern sector. Still, Betty Ewins, a distinguished volunteer, was much impressed with the "professionalism and efficiency" of our team, and the Poly Spans will be here any day now. Ex-nurse Kay seems to have gone, Simon is new and Paul is very pleased to be back in our midst again, another most welcome return from Northamptonshire, via Colchester. Andy is into boilersuits, Tom collects polystyrene cups and Haggi Merry has a work permit at last (Hurray !) while Penny finds lockets and Roman Tweezers. Weekends are very popular with the public, not to mention babes in arms, police etc, thanx no doubt to Kenny Everett and Co. Mr. Stone is suffering from severe ill health, Mike finds piles of tiles, Barbie sports sun-tops and is back on lagers, Bob revealed more than a talent for archaeology and Alan, who appears by kind permission of LBC, is very good at answering the phone.

Happy Anniversaries to CD. Woods, 32 $\pm$  7 on the 9th., Alan & Jan who have been married for a couple of years also on the 9th., and Sal, who left Darkest America exactly one year ago on March & 7th. A very merry Skinners to y'all!!!

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### THE MUSE BLUES

Our Muse hath undergone several revolutions recently, as everyone has changed offices- not to mention titles- leaving Trevor B. de Mille (he's a big boy cos he keeps developing) and Julia homeless and Dianna with a headache to name but two improvements. Everybody thought that Hilary (of dental surgery fame) and Merry's cross-words was much more fun than spending a night at the opra, and Brian has had a haircut. Peter finished TL 74a beautifully, Graham is on the level, though not on a large scale and his better half is offering pix of NFW for modest sums. Chas has given up being Student Member on the Rescue Committee, the new desks are very exciting, and Sal- who is paid to put ink on paper- dosent distract Vanessa (who has new hair) half as much as Des would like to.

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### The TRIGGERS WHISPER

Mark II's title does not derive (as many have been led to beleive) from the velocity of his velocipede, but merely differentiates its owner from Mark I, who also works on Trig, but has smaller feet, rarely wears life-jackets, suffers neither from constipation or hiccoughs and has never prosecuted anybody under sub-section III of the Sale of Goods Act 1886. John Maloney was burgled as unusual the other day, Jane fell into the H<sub>2</sub>O, grew an abcess and started collecting bandages, and Dave, who owes several weeks wages to the swear-box, was most upset by the language used by our yatching enthusiast. Mark III would like to stay with us, John John became a Scientist of the Soil, and Jackie's Horroscope announced that "...a good start to the week enables you to get some planning done.." Visitors to site included a school party ("Wots that geezer doin?"), a policeman (not P.C. Henry, who thought our well was "quite sump-thing") who was the only person who didnt catch Chrissie at it, and Daniel Ellis who thought the sight of his pater at work most amusing.

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## BONHILL BANTER

We are pleased to report that no-one is leaving this week, which makes a welcome change: in fact the ranks have been swelled by the return of Judy from her recent illnesses, 'tho rumour has it that Ricardo, who usually rides shotgun with our pay, is so improved in body that his migration to the Field is imminent. And while we're on the subject of sartorial elegance, Mike-if-it-moves-its-saxon-Rhodes is looking very smart these days, and Peter is off to see H.M.S. Trig this week. Meanwhile, proceeding in a circular direction along the west-bound flower bed in Twickenham, Miss Pameña Brodie- who was fully dressed at the time- helped to navigate her car through three garden walls, coming to rest in a herbaceous border. Although fortunately unscarred herself, the automobile was not quite the same again, nor was the owner of the garden, a grecian lady, who was rushed to hospital, understandably suffering from shock. Howard, whos is also in poor condition at ~~zk~~ the moment, what with the mentalpause and everything, has nevertheless begun to draft "the Ballad of Bonhill", an extract of which we proudly present by way of an hors.d'oeuvre:  
"...There's Mike upstairs with his finds crew,  
Who wash up, and glue up and box  
In squalor with dirt dust and cold  
And an odour reminiscent of socks.."

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## CASS COLLEGE WHISPER

COLAS have accepted the site offered to them (see WW20) and have already spent much hard work therein, under the watchful sledgehammer of CD. Woods. Some more or less stratified deposits have been located and rewards to date include large chunks of samian, Neronian, London and Trajanix ware, two big pits, brick piers plastic dollies and a resident tramp called Augustus, who likes walking over trowelled areas. We wish you every success, and may all your ditches be V- shaped !

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## LECTURE NOTES

- Monday March 18th: Institute, Gordon Square, for Brian Philp on "Rescue Archaeology in Kent, 1974" at 7.30.
- FRiday March 21st: COLAS lecture on "Netherton" their own DMV, given by Jon Fairbrother at St. Katherine Cree Leadenhall Street, at 7 p.m.
- Saturday March 22nd: The LAMAS London round-up in the Livery Hall at 1.30, complete with DUA display, our Brian, and much much more.
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The results of a comprehensive 5 year research programme being conducted by the Brit Mus in the Grimes Graves area are still on display in the special exhibitions gallery next to the Early Med and Roman Britain Rooms in Bloomsbury.

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## TALLY HO CORNER

Do you yearn to be back in the saddle? Do you dream of delightful weekends in Dorset horse-riding for as little as £1 per hour, with full board and lodge practically phree? You do? Then contact Barbie(GPO) or Jane (Trig) , and bring your own sleeping bag.

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SMALL PHINDS

\*\*\* REVIVED @ 45 DEPARTMENT: Chris Catling working his way thro 58,000 coins in the Institute; Martin Millet and Mark Redknap -who are also Institutionalised- will be digging an important villa ~~xxx~~ site near Elsted in Sussex from 4th. July to 29th. August. Volunteer help is most urgently required, and any Unit digger who feels like a Summer change of scene would be very welcome. Further ~~xxxx~~ details from the lads in Gordon Square; Brian Hodgkinson is back in town, bearded and occasionally sober; Anne Clarke is now installed at Fortress House, and has bravely managed to adjust to life without Mike Rhodes; Margie left Ramsbury, Wilts for Berkley, USA; Geoffery's Wakefield Ditch now has a T junction and a possible Roman structure, but Dereck is covered in leprosy.

\*\*\* Our new overlord Tom Hume (who likes book-binding), when the Beeb's Richard Baker asked him if he collected anything, replied: "Yes, scratches on my car".

\*\*\* According to the latest CBA calendar, the DUA is short of Draughtsmen, Finds Assistants, Site Supervisors and Assistant Site Supervisors.

\*\*\* So many diggers were forced to drop out of the DUA/Institute Phootball match that Chas was forced to play with himself.

\*\*\* Max Hebditch was at Cambridge doing Arch. and Anth. with Barry Cunliffe and Martin Biddle.

\*\*\* Lunch time strollers from the GPO might like to ponder over the Memorial Wall in the nearby Postmans Park, where many a hero is poignantly commemorated such as: "John Cranmer, aged 23 A clerk in the London County Council, who was drowned near Ostend whilst saving the life of a stranger and a foreigner, August 8, 1901".

\*\*\* Jackie Harrison still recalls as if it were yesterday, her first morning on Angel Court, when an inquisitive digger asked her if she knew "the weedy wet in charge of Trig Lane".

\*\*\* Excavation Report a la John Stow, Everyman edition, page 187: "In the year 1497, in the month of April, as labourers digged for the foundation of a wall within the church of St. Marie Hill, near unto Belinsgate, they found a coffin of rotten timber, and therein the corpse of a woman whole of skin, and of bones undissevered, and the joints of her arms pliable, without breaking of the skin, upon whose sepulchre this was engraven: 'Here lies the bodies of Richard Hackney fishmonger, and Alice his wife' the which Richard was sheriff in the 15th. off Edward II (1322) . Her body was kept above ground 3 or 4 days without nuisance, but then it waxed un-savoury, and so was again buried."

\*\*\* Dave O'Connor and friend Barry, infamous London grave robbers spotted down Upper Thames Street Way.

\*\*\* One of the projects which an un-named digger wished to work on was on the C9th. King of the Franks called Charles the Bald.

\*\*\* Many thanx to Dianna for the prant-out, Barbie for the cover, Charlotte for the typewriter and all our many contributors. Complaints if you dare to: The Editor, WHISPERING HEIGHTS, 10 OFFX -ORD ROAD, LONDON N.1, or phone 01-609 2760.

\*\*\* TOP OF THE POPS: Just into the No. One slot for the first week is Alvis Presley and the Postage Stompers with "Hey, You, Gettof of My Cloud": No.2 is the Troilettuana Brass with "Eye Level" while No. 3 is still Butch Cass and the Sunday Kids with "The Lonliness of the Long-Distance Loo Runner". A new entry is shooting up the charts, at No. 4 this week, "London Bridge is Falling Down" by Cockney Rubble.