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SOCIETY NEWS

THE BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE - 50
September 1973

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'SOCIETY NEWS' is published quarterly in June, September, December and March. All correspondence regarding, and articles for inclusion in the bulletin should be addressed to the Editor, Jill E Green, 24 Lynmouth Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, EN1 2LR. 01-360-7752.

Post free to members, extra copies may be obtained from the membership secretary, Mrs S Sinden, 28 Lyndhurst Gardens, Enfield, 5p inc p&p.

F O R T H C O M I N G _ E V E N T S
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Saturday 22nd September at 7.30pm, Salisbury House, Bury Street West, N9
Please see separate application form enclosed with this issue.

Sunday 30th September in London.

A walk round the district of Southwark, with Harvey Sheldon.
For details please contact E Lionel Fereday.

Wednesday 10th October at 8pm, Edmonton Upper School, Cambridge Road, N9
FILM SHOW. The titles are not available at time of going to
press but members can be sure of an interesting, and we hope
educational, evening.

Wednesday 14th November at 8pm, Edmonton Upper School, Cambridge Road, N9
Lecture: 'Recent Excavations at Swanscombe', by Dr John
Waechter. The subject of this lecture is a little unusual in
that it deals with a period of pre-history unknown to most of
our members. Dr Waechter has spent many seasons digging at
Swanscombe, the source of the earliest known inhabitant of
Britain.

Wednesday 5th December at 8pm, Edmonton Upper School, Cambridge Road, N9
Lecture: 'The Roman Pottery in Highgate Wood', by Harvey
Sheldon. Once again this London Archaeologist will be meeting
members of this Society, this time to give a talk on the
pottery found in conjunction with the kilns which were
excavated in Highgate Woods.

REMEMBER - THESE MEETINGS ARE FOR YOU, THE MEMBERS OF THE E.A.S.

(So far about 20 questionnaires have been returned to the Editor. Three
people in the Southgate area have requested transport to meetings but
forgot to put their name and address on the forms. If those persons
would contact the Editor, 01-360-7752 transport can be arranged for them).

The dig in Seventh Avenue has now closed. A good deal of pottery was
recovered and a pot-washing session will be held shortly. It is hoped
that the material will be on show at the History Weekend on September
15/16, at Salisbury House.

Contributions for the next bulletin should reach the editor by
December 15th.

FISH-PICKLE SAUCE AT CHURCHFIELDS

During the 1972 excavations in Churchfields a layer of dark soil was discovered, appearing to be a pit or ditch containing Roman remains. In April 1973 at the week-ends a start was made in clearing out this feature for a width of about 18 inches from the face of the section.

Artifacts mainly consisted of the usual brick and tile fragments, predominantly in the upper half of the dark soil, with a few very small pottery sherd and bone fragments

The find of most interest so far is what appears to be the base of a globular amphora in a coarse sandy-yellowish ware. These amphorae usually stood about 2'4" high with maximum girth about 1'9", with two handles, one of which would sometimes carry a stamp giving the name of the landowner or estate whose produce the vessel contained. The nature of the contents was also frequently written or incised on the outside of the vessel - normally wine, oil or fish sauce (garum). The source of supply for the British market was the south of Spain and although there is some evidence of traffic even before the Roman invasion the period when the globular amphorae came into normal use was after the middle of the second century A.D.

Bob Brown.

Refs: ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN - Collingwood and
Richmond
ANTIQUITIES OF ROMAN BRITAIN - B.M.
THE IRON AGE AND ITS HILL FORTS - Ed Jesson and
Hill
(ROMAN AMPHORAE IN PRE-ROMAN BRITAIN - Peacock.

THE CITY UNIVERSITY -- ST JOHN STREET, LONDON EC1V 4PB

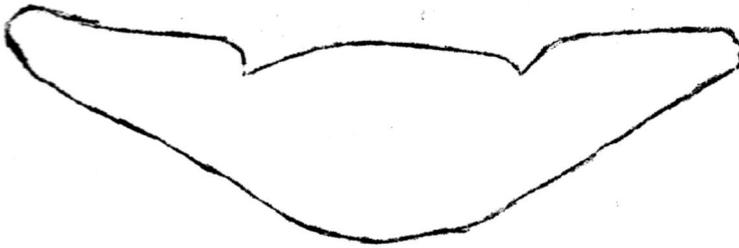
The 1973/4 Adult Education Programme includes some items that might be of interest to members.

'Materials in Antiquity' will discuss the mode of living of Man from Palaeolithic to Roman times in terms of the utilisation of the available building materials. The characteristic feature of the influential civilisations of the Ancient World will be described.
Commencing October 2nd at 6.30pm.

'Controversy in Geology' will examine the development of Geology as a science and some of the controversial issues raised.
Commencing October 25th at 6.30pm.

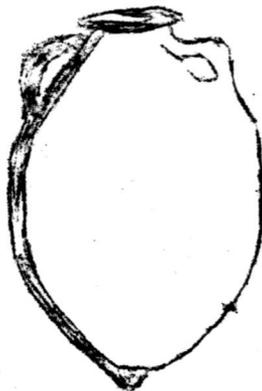
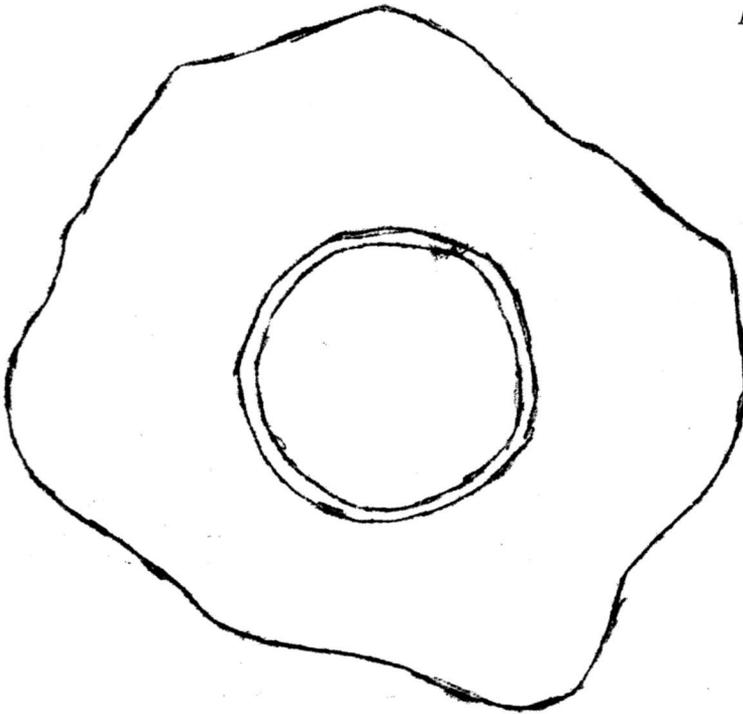
'Accidents and Victorian Engineering' will show how accidents on the railways, in industry, and at sea influenced the evolution of Victorian Engineering.
Commencing January 17th at 6.30pm.

Further details are available from the college, address above.



CHURCHFIELDS SHERD.

Actual size.



GLOBULAR AMPHORA.

After
Collingwood;

(Fig. 91.c.

Scale 1-12.

R.B.
1/5/73.

THE WOODCHESTER PAVEMENT

On Sunday 22nd July, three cars left Enfield Market Place at 8.45 am heading for Woodchester, near Stroud, in Gloucester. The journey was quite quick and we all arrived at our destination at around 11.30, having stopped for coffee on the way.

The Woodchester Roman Pavement lies beneath the parish churchyard, to be uncovered and displayed to the public once a decade by the united efforts of the villagers.

It was not until 1794 that the pavement was fully excavated - by a Samuel Lyons - although parts of it had previously been seen and recorded by local people. Unfortunately parts of the pavement had been destroyed by gravediggers.

As the largest and most elaborate of the several hundred decorative Roman pavements known in Britain, the Woodchester pavement spans an area of 45 ft 10ins (14.88m) square.

The design itself consists basically of an octogon surrounded by three concentric circles, all enclosed in a square, panelled frame. The pattern of the central octogon has been completely destroyed - but according to a note made by Richard Bradley, it was 'said to be fish and star about the centre'.

The innermost circle contains a procession of birds; the next, one of animals, and the third a wave pattern. To the south side of the circle of birds, and facing the presumable main entrance to the room, is what remains of the figure of Orpheus playing the lyre - his head and shoulders having been lost as part of the octogon. Also, to the south side of that containing waves, is the head of Neptune.

As already noted the concentric circular scheme is enclosed in a square frame. In each of the four right-angled corners between the outer border of the circle and the framework had stood a square stone column base. One remains in situ and in the top of this is a large circular socket, evidently for a rebate and therefore implying a wooden column. Occupying the spaces on either side of the column bases were two reclining female figures. Large parts of five of these eight figures are missing.

The broad frame consists of regular panels of differing design, with a border pattern round the edge.

It is interesting that, although two other types of Orpheus mosaics containing similar details have been found all over Britain and Europe, this particular design with its use of concentric circles has only been discovered in S.W. England (four - including Woodchester - in Gloucestershire, and one and probably another in the adjacent counties of Somerset and Wiltshire respectively).

After lunch we went on to see the Roman villas at Whitcombe (part of which is still being excavated) and Chedworth.

As a closing note, I would like to say 'thank you' again to our drivers, Angela, Jill and Ian.

Mary Sells

RINGWAY 3 RESCUE COMMITTEE NEWS.

Rapid progress is now being made on the stretch of motorway from A1 to A111. Anyone approaching Potters Bar by road from Barnet or Southgate cannot fail to notice the activities of the road builders.

It is quite an exciting experience to watch the giant earth moving vehicles bumping and swaying with their loads across the site. Not so exciting for the local residents who have to endure the noise of these heavy diesel engines for nearly fifteen hours a day! According to the local press, the contractors hope to complete all the major earthworks by the end of August.

Those members who helped Brian Warren dig on the cottage site at Baker Street, or heard his talk at a recent Members Night, will be interested to learn that the visible signs of the site have vanished under the earth moving developments.

The elm trees and hedgerows surrounding the dig have disappeared, so the photographs that were taken earlier this year will provide a record of the area as it was before the contractors came.

The junction of Bentley Heath Lane and Baker Street is un-recognisable without the tree etc. and I could only establish the position by finding a small section of kerbstone still in situ denoting where the small triangle had been at the T-junction.

Our work on the site was truly a rescue dig to discover and record what evidence we could of former occupation before the total destruction of the area.

The line of the motorway is now clearly visible just inside the Enfield boundary. Marker pegs can be seen from the footpath leading from the Ridgeway near New Cottage Farm.

Events have reached an interesting stage and so a short field trip is proposed for Sunday morning September 23rd. If any other members would like to join us we meet at the entrance to New Cottage Farm at 10am.

For further details ring Kitty Wiltshire at 01-284-2363.

ROMAN SITES IN BRITAIN - Part V

CAERLEON, Camp of the Legion.

To end this first journey into Wales we visit ISCA, the legionary fortress, the most imposing part of which is the amphitheatre. This will be our first excursion in Wales which has been confined to the territory inhabited by the people of the Silures.

Caerleon lies in the valley of the river Usk, north-east of Newport, Monmouthshire. See O.S. map no. 155, Bristol and Newport. For motorists it can be reached from two roads; the A449 and a class 2 road, the B4236. Three buses run to Caerleon from Newport. Two are corporation buses and leave from the Corporation bus station in Dock Street, Newport. The no. 2 for Lodge Farm Estate, leaves every half hour, starting on the hour. The no. 7 for Llanfrechfa, runs hourly at a quarter past the hour. Get off at the Caerleon Post Office or at the Legionary Museum. The third bus is a Red and White Service bus for Monmouth. This is a limited stop service which leaves the Red and White Bus Station, also in Dock Street, at half past the hour and stops at Caerleon Post Office.

The Roman site at Caerleon is divided into three.

1. The ruined rampart and the foundations of barrack blocks in the west corner, the part of the site called Prysg Field - Admission free.
2. The Amphitheatre - Admission 5p.
3. The Legionary Museum - Admission used to be 3 old pence. (It has occurred to me that I have not visited this site since we went decimal so I do not know the price in new pence.)

I think it is best to start at the Amphitheatre and, having explored that site, ask the custodian for directions to find the barrack blocks in Prysg Field. There is ample space to park cars and coaches by the Amphitheatre. So for the motorist this is another reason for starting at this part of Roman Isca. Visitors should allow at least an hour for inspecting the Amphitheatre.

On the occasions when I have visited this site I have been impressed with the beautiful way it is kept. There is little impression of size and it is not until some people go down into the arena that the size of the building becomes apparent. For this reason it is best to visit this site with some companions though it is possible to get some feeling of size by going down into the arena. Everyone who visits the site should stand quietly in the middle of the arena for a few minutes and let their imagination run riot. It's rather an awesome feeling or perhaps I have a good imagination.

Pamphlets, postcards and transparencies are on sale at the custodians kiosk. Before leaving get the custodian to point out the path leading to Prysge Field which is unattended. Allow about three-quarters of an hour to walk round this part of the site.

The Legionary Museum is on the main road through Caerleon near the Parish Church. An interesting little museum well worth a visit. Visitors should find half an hour in this cool little building. There is an admission charge but I don't know how much it is in our new-fangled money. The last time I called at the museum there were no books on sale but I have some pamphlets from an earlier visit. A visit to Caerleon will take about 2¼ to 2½ hours.

NEWS OF ROMAN SITES? The large mosaic pavement at Woodchester Roman Villa was uncovered for six weeks during this summer. If you missed it you will have to wait ten years or so before it is uncovered again. Another site that we will not be able to see for some years is the Roman Bath building at Billingsgate. This remnant of Roman Londinium is closed to the public while the site is developed. When the building work is finished the site will be permanently open. Work is expected to take two or three years.

Bill Johnson.

RAILWAY AND CANAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Public Lecture entitled:

'ROAD TRANSPORT AND ITS RELEVANCE TO WATERWAY AND RAILWAY HISTORY'

Professor T C Barker MA PhD
in the Lecture Hall of the SCIENCE MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON SW7
on Saturday 6th October 1973 at 17.30 hrs.

A cordial invitation is extended to all interested persons.

Admission is free but, owing to limited accommodation it is by TICKET ONLY.
If any member is interested please apply to:

Mr A C F Hadfield
93 Kerpe Road
London NW6
Tel. 01-969-5151 (Home)
01-723-1221 Ext 510 (Business)

MORE COINS FROM CHURCHFIELDS

Yes, yet again more Roman coins have been recovered from the Churchfields site. Since I reported on the denarius of Trajan (see 'History from a Roman Coin' bulletin 49), a further two coins have been found.

The first of these is a copper as (pronounced ass) of the Emperor Commodus and that is really all that can be said about it. It is so badly corroded that no further details are to be had. A short account of the life of the Emperor Commodus is set out below nevertheless.

COMMODUS

His full name was Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus and was born in Lanuvium, Latium in A.D. 161 the son of Emperor Marcus Aurelius and Faustina the younger. In A.D. 177 he was made co-emperor and a year later went with his father on a campaign against the warring Germanic tribes. The war continued until 180 when Marcus Aurelius died and Commodus promptly made peace with the Germans, returned to Rome and celebrated a triumph.

For the greater part of his reign he was insane, naming Rome after himself viz Colonia Commodiana and leaving the administration of the Empire to a succession of Favourites. He was one of the most cruel and wicked emperors that Rome ever saw and was often to be found fighting as a gladiator in the arena. Not content with being emperor he also declared himself to be Jupiter and Hercules and demanded that people worship him as such. Whether he was both of the deities simultaneously or alternatively is conjectural!

Eventually though he was murdered on 31st December A.D. 192 and his body was dragged through the streets of Rome and flung into the river Tiber.

The second coin was found, after cleaning, to be an antoninianus of Carausius. An antoninianus is, in fact, a double denarius and these coins were introduced in A.D. 214 under the emperor Caracalla whose proper name was M. Aurelius Antoninus. Thus today we call this denomination after that emperor.

Although the coin is supposed to be silver it is only silver-plated bronze. The silver content was reduced so much during the third century A.D. that it was necessary to plate the coins to show that they belonged to the silver series.

Identification has been made difficult due to corrosion but the details which have been obtained are as follows:

Obverse.

Legend IMP.CARAVSI.....

Radiate bust of Carusius facing right.

Reverse.

Legend PAX AVG.

Pax standing left holding an olive branch and sceptre.

Well so much for the coin, what about Carausius? As usual I have included a few words on his life.

CARAUSIUS

He was born in Belgic Gaul in a place called Menepia but the names of his parents are unknown to us. Being a skilful sailor and an able soldier he was brought to the attention of the Emperor Diocletian who put him in command of a naval force whose job it was to stop the Franks from raiding the coasts of Gaul.

Carausius fulfilled his duties efficiently at first but it soon became apparent that he was allowing the pirates to raid the coastal settlements and make off with their booty, intercepting them when they put out to sea. Having done this, he relieved the Franks of their treasure and kept it all for himself.

Here, for a moment at least, we depart from the story in order to take a look at how the empire was governed at this time. The era, incidentally, for these events is from about A.D. 285 to 296. Diocletian appointed a co-emperor to help him rule the empire. A man called Maximianus was chosen and he ruled the western empire whilst Diocletian ruled the eastern part. When a few years had elapsed two caesars were appointed, Constantius for the west and Galerius for the east (A.D. 293). It was Diocletian's intention that when he and Maximianus died the two caesars would then succeed to the throne and in turn appoint two more caesars to succeed them, and so on. In fact the system failed but the outcome does not concern us here as those events occurred after the period in which we are interested; so back to the story.

When Maximianus learned of Carausius' exploits he immediately sentenced him to death. Upon hearing this Carausius sailed over to Britain with his entire fleet and proclaimed himself Emperor. This occurred in A.D. 287 and from that date he began striking his own coinage, of which our antoninianus is an example. As well as governing Britain he also held Gesoriacum (Boulogne) but in A.D. 293 Constantius laid siege to the town and took it without much trouble.

In the same year whilst Constantius was making preparations for the crossing to Britain with his army in order to carry out the death sentence, he heard that Carausius had been murdered by his colleague Allectus who readily assumed the purple.

When Constantius did at last land in Britain (296) he marched against Allectus who was killed in the ensuing battle and restored the province to the Roman Empire.

R.A. Coxshall

ROMAN COIN FROM 22 LANDSEER ROAD, BUSH HILL PARK: Found in 1972.

It is a bronze antoninianus of the Emperor Victorinus A.D. 268-270.

Obverse

Legend: IMP.C.VICTORINVS P.F.AVG.
Radiate head facing right.

Reverse

Legend: LAETITIA AVG.
Laetitia standing left holding a wreath and a rudder.
(Laetitia was the personification of joy)

Unfortunately the years have taken their toll on this coin and corrosion has removed much detail but under a strong light and with the aid of a magnifying glass the above identification has been obtained.

VICTORIANUS

M. Piauvonius Victorinus was an Emperor who reigned only two years and very little is known about him. His mother was called Victoria or Victorina and it seems that due to her influence he gained favour with the Emperor Postumus, his predecessor. He led a military career and no doubt he was glad of this asset for shortly after his accession rebellion broke out within the empire, resulting eventually in a siege at Augustodunum (Autun, France). After several months his army took the city but following this he was murdered in Colonia Agrippina (Cologne) by his own soldiers and, if one account is to be believed, it was because he insulted the wife of one of his clerks. This does appear to be a rather unlikely reason but who can say for sure what went on in Cologne on that particular day nearly two thousand years ago!

R A Coxshall

BOOK REVIEW

The Edmonton Hundred Historical Society have recently added three Occasional Papers (nos 23 - 25) to their list of these short booklets.

No 23 is entitled 'John Sherwen and Drug Cultivation in Enfield'. Written by J G L Burnby it re-examines the life of John Sherwen, physician and archaeologist. The drug concerned in this booklet is Rhubarb but I found the paper a trifle muddled and could not really follow the authors train of thought in some parts. Nevertheless it made interesting reading.

No 24 - 'Non-Conformist Churches in Enfield', by G W Knight. This is an interesting account of the histories and stories of some of the churches in the borough. It contains some amusing anecdotes of Sunday School outings as well as some prices which would make modern churchwardens jealous.

The latest pamphlet 'Protestant Gentlemen. The Wroths of Durants Arbour and Loughton, Essex' is by D O Pam, a regular contributor to the series. It relates the history of the Wroth family from the early 13th Century until the death of Robert Wroth in 1606 and, although containing many facts and figures, makes very interesting reading.

Jill Green

HISTORY WEEKEND....HISTORY WEEKEND....HISTORY WEEKEND....HISTORY WEEKEND
September 15/16 1973 at Salisbury House, Bury Street West, Edmonton N9.
From 3pm to 10pm each day.
Organised by the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society .

Included in the weekends activities will be an exhibition entitled 'From place to place', a pictorial history of the many different ways in our forbears were conveyed.

It is also anticipated that the E.A.S. will mount a small exhibition.

On Saturday at 3pm there will be a local quiz between a team from Edmonton and Tottenham and one from Enfield and Southgate.

The Kingsmead Singers will be giving a concert, on Saturday evening at 8pm, of folk songs from this country and elsewhere.

'Local Sinners' is the intriguing title of an 'anti-pageant' to be performed on the Sunday evening at 7.45pm by the Dragon Players, displaying some of the more disreputable characters in local history from the 13th to the 20th centuries.

If any members are interested in helping with this weekend would they please contact the Editor.