

PONTEFRACT AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER

Your Committee got down to some real hard work at their first meeting and this letter is a result of one of the suggestions. We hope that all our members will find it interesting and informative. It is still in the experimental stage but we hope to produce at least one letter each month. Your Secretary and Mr. J. Holmes have the task in hand and we hope the idea will prove popular.

Fancy starting a news letter without News!--but that's the situation at the moment with regard to the Castle, except that we are to meet the representative of the Duchy of Lancaster in the near future to discuss the matter.

Due to the recent snow we had to postpone the proposed visit to the Castle by The Girls' High School Historical Society, but some members of the Society went round the Castle, including the dungeons and magazine while the Secretary explained what proposals had been made for the repair and preservation of the fabric.

The Beginners' Class appeared to be quite successful, considering we had a beginner for an Instructor, but just to make sure, we are having a lecture on Practical Archaeology by Mr. Bellamy on Saturday, 22nd March, at 7-30 p.m. The venue is not quite certain, but keep your eye on the Public Notices in "The Pontefract & Castleford Express."

Have you your Trowel ready? You'll need it this Easter. Excavating is due to start on St. John's Priory on Saturday, April 5th, and on Saturday, March 8th on the Trinity Site, having been spurred on by a letter in The Express. We are quite serious about your trowel, by the way, Mr. Bellamy has asked that each helper should bring their own Trowel (preferably NOT the rivetted type as these soon break), kneeling mat and whisk. We shall also be very happy to see plenty of people willing to become "Labourers" for a short while. (Ladies excepted of course).

Another suggestion was that we affiliate the Society to The Yorkshire Archaeological Society. We thought that this was a good idea as it will add to the prestige of the Society and we may make use of the amenities available to us, for instance our "Digs" will be reported in the Y.A.S. Journal. The only cost is £1 per year so we set the wheels in motion.

The matter of All Saints' is still in the air. Your Secretary wrote immediately after the last General Meeting, but so far there has been no reply.

We are hoping to visit Kirkstall Abbey when the weather settles down, it will be interesting to compare the foundation plans of Kirkstall and St. John's. A visit to Monk Bretton, the daughter house of St. John's has also been suggested. Here again it will be interesting to make comparisons.

Well, here's hoping for some nice weather at Easter. No excavating on Easter Sunday, by the way, but Mr. Bellamy hopes to be at the Priory for much of April.