

PONTEFRAC T AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R, J U N E - J U L Y, 1 9 5 8

Well! He did it, and in spite of what one newspaper said, he did not get up from a sick bed, nor did he do it for a bet, nor was he an ex-Grenadier! Apart from that paper's misleading reports the experiment was very interesting. A full report will be ready shortly and anyone interested should contact the Secretary. One thing we were pleased about, was that people who had not been really interested in the Castle before flocked to the Castle to see the Prisoner released. If the experiment has done nothing else but arouse the public's interest, then it has been well worth while. Some people ask "what is the experiment to Archaeology?" Let us please remember what Archaeology is---it is the study of PEOPLE, their ways, beliefs, how they came to be what they are, and so on. What better way to study these things than to actually experience them?

Members had a very interesting trip to Skipton Castle and the Museum. What a shame we cannot enjoy a museum like that! WHY NOT? Skipton, or more correctly, Mr. Ken Wilson, has shown us what can be done with a few willing hands and a Council which encourages its local society.

Members also enjoyed a trip to Fountains Abbey during June, Mr. Bellamy kindly acted as our guide, and members were able to compare the ruins with those of St. John's, and should have a better idea of what they are looking for.

Investigations into the well discovered at Trinity Street proved negative, we did not have time to reach the bottom of the silt where most objects would be, but from the slime dried up on the walls and the fact that the top was built over in such a way that water could only ENTER there being no provision for a pump a theory has been advanced that this was in fact a cesspool, dug before the town sewers. The Trinity Site can now be written off as far as finds are concerned as all digging has now been completed and the buildings are on the way up. Some broken pieces of pottery have been identified as Staffordshire "Slip-ware" circa 1721-1740.

A party of fifty from the Girls' High School visited the Hermitage (by kind permission of The Matron). Because of the state of the spiral staircase near the bottom we thought it unwise to proceed as far as the Carved Skeleton, but the Secretary has promised to send photos of this to the School.

A letter from the Town Clerk has informed us that the Council will raise no objection to members of the Society acting as Guides to people wishing to be conducted round the Castle, but I have been asked to make it quite clear that persons wishing to visit the Dungeons MUST seek permission direct from the Town Clerk. This permission can not be arranged by the Society, further, it must be known that anyone entering the Dungeons, with or without permission, does so entirely at their own risk. Members interested in becoming guides should bear in mind that while people are interested in theories and Legends, a good guide will keep the Theories from the facts. A paper of facts concerning the Castle is being prepared and members wishing to Act as Guides should contact the Secretary. This is important as the Council would prefer to know the names of those of our members who will be acting as guides. Until these names have been confirmed members would be advised not to use the term "Official Guide" when taking parties round the Castle.

Would you be prepared to help the Society Funds by paying 3d. for your News Letter? Providing of course that it is bigger and contains more information? We have seen samples of News Letters which put ours to shame, and we should like to improve and enlarge ours, but at present we could not do this without charge, so please let us know what you think about this. Your Committee want any ideas you may have.

Some negatives have been lent to Mr. Holmes, but there must be many good ones which would make good slides still hidden away. We cannot have a show without material to show of the Society's work.

Some of the people who have been identified as participants in the work of the Society are mentioned in the following list. It is not intended to be a complete list, but it is hoped that it will give some idea of the extent of the work.

Mr. Ken Wilson, who was one of the first to start the work, and Mr. J. H. Wilson, who was one of the first to start the work, are mentioned in the following list. It is not intended to be a complete list, but it is hoped that it will give some idea of the extent of the work.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS - 1928

LOWELL ST. AND DISTRICT SOCIETY