

# PONTEFRACT and DISTRICT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## NEWS LETTER

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AUGUST 1958

How do you like the new style of News Letter? This is just an experiment to see how it can be improved. There is no reason why we should not improve still further, but we could not make it bigger without a small charge. So far Mr. Holmes has very kindly printed our News Letters free of charge, but we feel we could not expect him to give his time to a bigger and more complicated letter without payment. What we really need is someone to take on the job of Editor so that a really good magazine could be produced. Any offers?

There is to be a general meeting of the Society on Saturday 6th September, at 7 p.m. in the Fontefract Library. The meeting will be followed at 8 p.m. by a Public Lecture by Mr. Ken Wilson on Heraldry. Mr. Wilson is well known to some of our members, and took part in the first week of the "Dig" at "St. John's". We are sure that members will find the lecture very interesting.

Further Lectures are being arranged for the 4th of October and the 1st of November, at the Library--again at 7-30 p.m. Mr. Wilson will be with us again in November to give us a lecture on the "Digs" in the Outer Hebrides. This lecture will be illustrated by slides.

Arrangements are being made to put on an exhibition of Photographs showing the work of the Society. Will members who have photographs (any size) please forward them to either the Secretary or Mr. Booth as soon as possible so that we can select suitable photographs. To prevent your pictures being lost will you please write your name and address on the back of the print.

Several members spent an afternoon visiting Kirkstall Abbey on Saturday, 19th July, and were shown round the ruins. They saw the work that has been carried out there over the past few years. Among the most interesting of the features was the main drain. At St. John's the main drain has been so hard to locate that members had the satisfaction of seeing what this feature is really like.

During the past few weeks one or two keen members have been acting as guides round the Castle. Visitors have shown great interest in this idea and have made encouraging comments. We still need more members who are willing to spend some of their time

that they can spare in the Castle. The Committee would like to keep up this service to the Public as long as possible while the weather permits. You do not need to be an expert in history to be a guide. Those of us who have been doing this work will be able to pass on the information we have acquired and show you how to carry on. We feel that this is a good way of showing the public that we exist, and also of showing that we mean business. It is up to us to put this town on the map as far as its history is concerned and so far we have made good progress. Keep it up.

Members will be interested and perhaps sorry to learn that Mr. Gardiner is changing his Fireman's Helmet for a Clerical Collar. It is hoped that he will be able to carry on as your Secretary with the valuable assistance already given by Mr. Booth. It may be necessary to appoint a new Secretary later on so we should be glad to learn of anybody who would care to take on this vital work. We say vital because it is the Secretary who bears the biggest burden in a Society like ours.

Mr. David Brooks has been bitten by the "Do it yourself" bug, inspired by the recent "Do it yourself" prisoner in the dungeon experiment, he has made himself a Stone Age Axe. The axe was made in the same way as our forefathers made theirs, and the result is quite good. This is the sort of spirit we need to help make a good Society. Mr. Brooks is now proceeding to make another axe, better still, and we hope to show the finished article in the Castle Museum. What next? Who will form a Dinosaur hunting Club? How about building a new Castle (or failing that a model)? or a model of St. John's? Get cracking you model makers. Archaeology is on the up and up. Let's keep it there.

We hate to mention this, but there are still quite a few folk who have not yet paid their membership fee. Do please let the Treasurer have your fee so that we can get a true picture of our membership. We shall be giving membership cards to paid up members at the General Meeting.

A party of boys from Doncaster is to visit the Castle on Saturday, August 23rd. We hope that there will be one or two members present to welcome them.