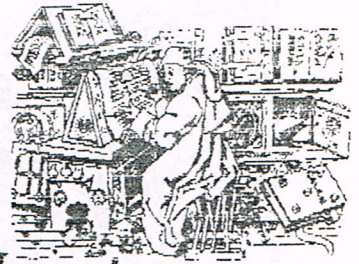


PONTARCH

Pontefract & District Archaeological Society.

Editor: Eric Houlder, Past-President.



EDITORIAL.....

Welcome to our twenty first issue of *PontArch*. One could say that we have come of age in the previous twenty issues of this, the series of newsletters. Certainly material has been much more forthcoming than when I tried to maintain our *Newsletter* in the early 1960s. However, there is no room for complacency, and we still require articles, news, even advertisements in order to keep up the regular appearances of *PontArch*.

Please do not forget to collect your programme card from the Museum as there are several excursions which take place before the lecture season commences in September. These include:

- July 11th. Alnwick & Workworth Castles.
- August 8th. Flag Fen, Longthorpe Tower & Crowland Abbey.
- October 9th 10th 11th. Tenby Weekend.
- December 12th. Xmas outing to Castleton in Derbyshire.

The first meeting of the season is our Symposium to mark the 350th anniversary of The Civil War. Several excellent speakers have been engaged. It takes place in the museum lecture room on September 19th from 10-30 pm. until 5-00 pm.

Finally, best wishes to all for another good summer. Our connection with the Wood Hall site at Womersley continues, and many of the young (and older) archaeologists involved are either members or join whilst on the site. Simon has promised us a report on the season's work, and this should appear shortly.

E.H.

A Short History of The Society, Part II. GROWING CONFIDENCE: INTO THE 1960s.....

It was the juniors who on the whole provided the experts after 1960, assisted by two people whose first contact with the society was on the site of St. John's Priory, the Grange. Ken Wilson was at that time the Education Officer at the Abbey House Museum at Kirkstall in Leeds. Each summer he had worked on various sites around the country, and had become something of an expert. Peggy White, who was to become his wife was a professional who had learned her archaeology from Rik Wheeler himself. During the early 1960s, the Wilsons organised small-scale digs on a number of sites and selected members of the Pontefract Society, especially the promising juniors, were invited to participate. Though the St. John's site was well run in these early days, the Wilsons' digs were done very strictly by the book, and there was never a blade of grass out of place. The rigorous site discipline learned in this way was to stand everyone in good stead, and earned praise from more than one eminent archaeologist during the next twenty years.

Alongside the excavation, the society always ran a winter programme of lectures, which in the early years was organised by Bill Booth. This was supplemented by visits to places like Skipton Castle, and days spent digging on various other sites, including Kirkstall Abbey, and some of the small-scale digs that were going on in York at that time. Some time during 1960, the writer returned from College and met another person who was to have

a lasting effect on the society. Fred Morris was a lorry driver who had always been interested in archaeology. Many walks were organised, taking in churches, castles, battlefields, and interesting houses. Fred maintained his interest in excavation too, and had a fund of anecdotes which he could produce with a straight face in the pub after a hard day on the site.

Fred had taken part in the 'excavation' into the Towton field burial mounds in the 1920s or 1930s, and occasionally spoke about this. To the end of his excavational experience (early 1970s) he maintained his drole sense of humour, and often had his knowledgeable friends paralysed with silent laughter, whilst some eager young excavator instructed him in the finer points of digging!

To return to Pontefract, one of the society's biggest worries at this time was the castle. Since the Victorian clearance of the 1880s, nothing had been done other than the application of a little cement in places where the stonework was cracking. Consequently, the ruins were in a dreadful state. The museum too, had had nothing done since Victorian times. The displays were mixed up, labels had been juxtaposed, and some items were 'missing.' By a process of pestering, the society gained permission to carry out basic restoration work in castle and museum. Ken Gardiner worked with a professional restorer of stonework and learned enough to carry out

Continued on pg.....4

A Short History of the Society: illustrations



Work has been resumed this week on excavations on the site of the ancient Priory of St. John at Pontefract, and new discoveries have been made, which are recorded in another column.

ABOVE:

An early P&C Express picture from St John's Priory. Taken Easter 1958, it shows your Editor (left in light-coloured jumper) and Ken Wilson, (right) cleaning a monastic burial. Standing left, with camera on a tripod, is Don Lodge.

RIGHT:

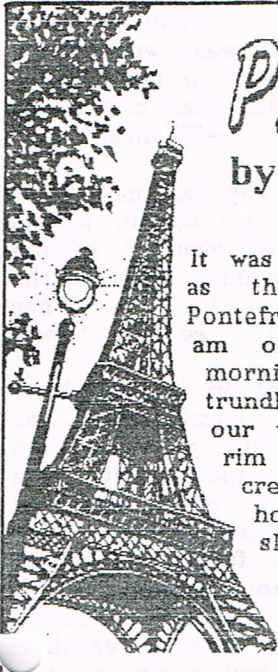
Another Express picture, from October 1966. Excavations at Manor Farm, Glashoughton. Left to right: Standing, Ruth Glover, Judith Gillian, Eric Houlder. Kneeling, Fred Morris and Madge Horner.



Just a pile of tipped stone, or part of an ancient pathway, or some evidence of the location of the "Manor of Hochtun"?—It is seeking the answer to such questions which keeps this Pontefract Archaeological Society test dig team busy in a paddock at Glass Houghton at the cold end of a darkening October day. Left to right: Mr Fred Morris and Mrs A. Horner (kneeling), Ruth Glover, Judith Gillian and Society Secretary (Mr Eric Houlder).

PARIS IN THE SPRINGTIME

by Barbara Stewart. *The Society Excursion of 5th to 9th April 1992.*



It was cold and dark as the coach left Pontefract at 6-00 am on the Sunday morning. As we trundled along on our way south, the rim of a red sun crept above the horizon and the sky gradually lightened. The sun made its f u l l

appearance and shone brightly for the rest of the day; for each day of the holiday in fact. On our arrival at Dover, opportunities were taken for photographing the white cliffs before embarking on the ferry. A smooth crossing, and an hour and a half later we stepped ashore in Calais.

The monotony of the long drive from Calais to Paris was broken by the frequent sighting of war cemeteries with their symmetrical rows of white crosses, a sad reminder of earlier times when the flat rural landscape was scarred with trenches and populated by desperate men.

On arrival at our hotel, the *Fimotel* in the Saint-Ouens district of Paris, we unloaded our luggage and located our rooms. Comfortable rooms and well-equipped bathrooms augured well for the start of our stay on foreign soil.

After a brief 'wash and brush up,' the coach departed for the city centre and a trip on a *bateau-mouche*. Seen from the river Seine, Paris takes on a different profile, especially at night when the city lights send a glow into the sky and ever-changing reflections onto the water.

The Eiffel Tower is particularly impressive, decked out with sufficient coloured lights

to decorate a thousand Christmas trees.

Breakfasting early, the next day we boarded our coach for a visit to the Louvre. The Louvre, the National Museum and Art Gallery of France, was originally a medieval fortress built by Philippe-Auguste, the Capetian king who ruled 1165-1223 and who joined in the Third Crusade with our Richard I. During the 16th, Charles V of Burgundy and the Netherlands, Holy Roman Emperor, (also called Charles I of Spain) converted the Louvre into a palace.

Given limited time one has to be selective amongst such a vast display of treasure and we made a bee-line for the statue of The Venus de Milo. It was discovered in a cave on the Greek Island of Melos in 1820. The First or Second Century statue was badly damaged, although still beautiful. The inscribed plinth on which it once stood, also parts of the arms, disappeared after discovery. Bought by the French Ambassador to Turkey, the statue, after being repaired, was presented to Louis XVIII of France who gave it to the Louvre. After walking along several corridors and up flights of stairs we located Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, which was painted in 1503.

After sampling the delicious ice-cream on sale in the cafe, we made our way to Notre Dame, an early Gothic cathedral which is situated on the Isle de la Cite. The building of the cathedral was completed by the middle of the Thirteenth Century. The gloomy interior of Notre Dame was relieved by the light which filtered through two beautiful

r o s e windows. The soft radiance of many candles lit each shrine, and the treasures in the museum were impressive.

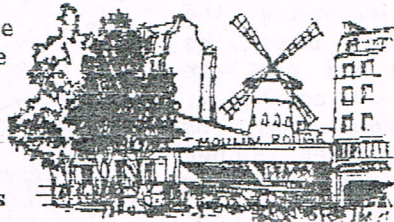
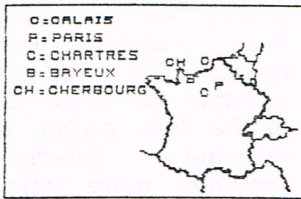
Close to Notre Dame is the much smaller Sainte-Chapelle a glory of stained glass. situated behind this little gem is the Conciergerie where Marie-Antoinette and many other victims of the French Revolution were incarcerated.

We rejoined the coach for a guided tour of Paris. The French guide pointed out many places of interest as we drove along. The Champs

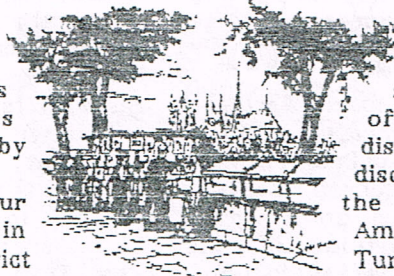
Elysees, Place de la Concorde, The Tuileries, Les Halles, and the Place de la Bastille. We passed the huge building of Les Invalides with its distinctive dome. It was built by Louis XIV to be used as a home for invalided soldiers. Beneath the dome are two churches, in one of which Napoleon is buried. Les Invalides houses France's huge national war museum.

Broad, tree-lined litter-free streets and large squares with their statues and fountains combine to make Paris a beautiful city. Arriving at the Champs de Mars, we left the coach in order to get a close look at the Eiffel Tower.

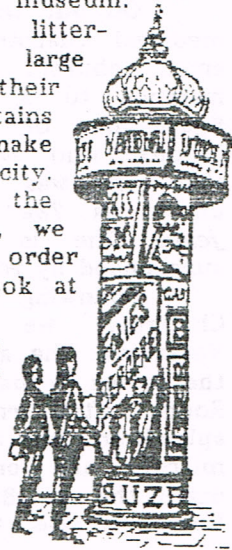
In the evening we visited Montmartre, passing the Moulin Rouge and other night spots. Riding in the funicular up the *Street Pillar*



The Moulin Rouge, Montmartre.



Left-Bank Booksellers



Street Pillar

steep slope to Sacre Coeur, (which is situated on the site of the executions of the first martyrs of Paris) we had an excellent view of the city with its myriad lights. There were lots of youngsters on the steps leading up to the church; they were holding an impromptu concert. The white, rather brash exterior of Sacre Coeur appears to be less garish at night. The cavernous interior becomes somehow more intimate, possibly because it seems to be lit solely by the light of votive candles. Clusters of lights flicker in front of each shrine, and much of the carving on walls and ceilings are lost in the encircling gloom. As in the other churches which we visited, the statues of the Virgin and the Saints were shrouded in purple cloth for the duration of Lent. After lighting our candles and fractionally increasing the glow, we left. Back down the hundreds of steps and past the shuttered shops to our coach.

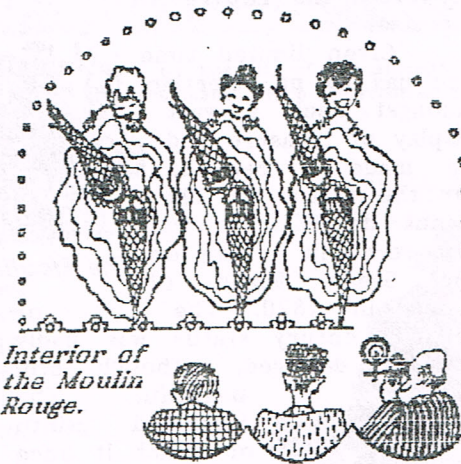
Tuesday morning found us on our way to Chartres. Ruined sections of the once encircling wall still remain in this ancient town, absorbed and dwarfed by the buildings of more recent times. The cathedral, with its flagged floor glossy with age, and its beautiful windows, was well worth the visit. The river Eure runs through the medieval part of the town, old houses, some with spiralling outer staircases, line its banks. There was lots of greenery, and trees bursting into leaf, which added to the mellow feeling of the locality.

On our way back from the medieval quarter we called at a small church. In a reliquary fastened to a wall we saw a figure-bone of Saint Therese of Lisieux who was canonised in 1925. She was a carmelite nun, known as *The Little Flower of Jesus*. She is usually depicted surrounded by roses.

Following our visit to Chartres, we journeyed to Versailles. The astonishing size of the palace is the first impression. Room after room of palatial splendour. Painted ceilings, gilded mirrors and crystal chandeliers dazzle the eye. Built for Louis XIV, Versailles was the seat of the

French Kings from 1682 to 1789. With its grandiose buildings and ornate gardens it must have made a stark contrast to the lifestyle of the populace who lived outside its boundaries. We returned from Versailles to spend a relaxing evening in the hotel.

On the Wednesday morning we left Paris and travelled to Bayeux, which is in the Calvados Department of Normandy. Bayeux was the capital of the Gauls and later an important Roman city. In 880AD it was captured by Rollo the Viking and became a Norman stronghold. Besieged and captured several times during the Hundred Years War and the Sixteenth Century Wars of Religion, it was occupied by the Germans in June 1940. On June 7th 1944 it was the first town to be liberated by the



Interior of the Moulin Rouge.

Allies. Part of the town is medieval, with cobbled streets and half-timbered houses. The Thirteenth century Gothic cathedral has an Eleventh century crypt. The Hotel de Ville (town Hall) was once the Bishop's Palace dating from the Eleventh century. The building also houses the Law Courts and the Art Gallery. An impressive display, complete with an introductory film and excellent small-scale models, introduces the visitor to the famous *Bayeux Tapestry*. This Eleventh century embroidery, worked on a band of linen 231 feet long and 19½ inches wide, depicts the conquest of England by William the Conqueror. There are more than seventy needlework illustrations of the incidents relating to this event, the colours still clear and vibrant

on the biscuit-coloured background. It was worked by English needlewomen, probably in compliance with the orders of Bishop Odo, William's half brother.

Also at Bayeux and visited by some members of our group, is the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy, 1944. In the surrounding district we once again passed several war cemeteries.

Our hotel on the outskirts of Caen was comfortable and situated practically next door to a huge supermarket (a *Hypermarche*?) - which was well and truly investigated for bargains. (We found prices of goods in France much higher than at home, although considering that average earnings there are also higher, no doubt it is all relative)

(Editor's note: we find that some things, like restaurant meals and certain foods are cheaper, often much cheaper, in France. The secret is to buy the things that the locals buy)

We visited Caen which is an industrial city, in the evening. Unfortunately the two monasteries, one built by William the Conqueror, and one by his wife Queen Matilda, were closed, but at least we saw them from the outside! There is a ruined castle and lots of interesting-looking little restaurants which were variously patronised by our group.

On Thursday morning we boarded the coach for our journey to Cherbourg and the six hour crossing to Southampton. The Sea Link ferry was more than half empty and we felt as though we were on a mini-cruise. We all went on deck as we approached the Isle of Wight and watched The Needles increasing in size as we drew nearer to them. The QE2 glided past as we sailed up Southampton Water. Once again on the coach, we settled down for the long drive back to Pontefract.

Very many thanks are due to Pauline and to Peter for their efficient organisation and for looking after our welfare throughout the holiday.

Barbara Stewart.

BELOW: A *Forkshire Post* article/picture from August 1965. Though the dig on the Roman fort at Ilkley was not a Society dig, its Director was our President, and the majority of the volunteers were members. In the foreground can be seen Kevin Stubbs, with Terence Carney behind him.

WALL THAT WENT UP 1,800 YEARS AGO

Evening Post Reporter

RELICS of the days when the Romans occupied Ilkley 1,800 years ago are being revealed by a team of amateur archaeologists led by Mr. Kenneth Wilson, a member of Ilkley U.D.C. and school museums' officer at Kirkstall Abbey House Museum, Leeds.

The dig, which started two weeks ago behind Ilkley Parish Church and the Manor House Museum, has brought to light a 52ft. stretch of the wall of the Roman fort of Olicana.

Buried and preserved under tons of debris and soil, stones laid by Roman masons on the little knoll between Ilkley Moor and the River Wharfe lie exactly as the Romans left them.

To preserve it

"We shall point them and group them in order to preserve the wall," said Mr. Wilson. "Otherwise, now that wall is exposed to the elements, it would start to disintegrate."

The stone fort replaced a Roman turf and clay rampart built in about 90 A.D., and was built about 20 or 30 years later. The walls were originally about 15ft. high and 6ft. thick at the base.

The entire fort covered nearly four acres, and outside its walls would be

the bathhouses, a canteen for the soldiers, and a civil settlement for military families and camp followers.

It is thought that the fort may have held a cohort, which is a tenth part of a Roman Legion—a Legion being a division of between 3,000 and 6,000 men.

"But we have no idea to which Legion the occupants of Olicana belonged," said Mr. Wilson. "It could have been the 6th Legion because the 9th Legion, stationed at York, was wiped out by the Brigantes in the 1st century and the 6th Legion followed."

Olicana at the time was one of the outposts of the Roman Empire, and its garrison, harassed by the Brigantes would use the fort as the focal point from which to patrol the Roman roads to other forts at Eilsack, near Skipton; Ribchester, near Blackburn; Bainbridge, in Wensleydale; and Slack, near Huddersfield.

"We have found quite a lot of broken fragments of pottery," said Mr. Wilson. "And among six coins we discovered is one of Antoninus in mint condition. He is the Roman who built the Antonine Wall north of Hadrian's Wall—a turf rampart to keep back raiders from the North."



restoration himself. During this, he discovered a small oven in the kitchens which had been entirely lost as a result of gardening activities over the years. Fred Morris began to cut a terrace into the banking which surrounded the castle on the Northgate side, and discovered that the banking was entirely artificial, again a product of Victorian and later gardeners tipping their rubbish over the edge. In the museum, John Holmes, Ken Evans and Mr. Addis constructed new showcases with modern lighting, whilst other members cleaned and re-labelled the exhibits.

From its inception, the society provided guides to conduct visitors around the castle. There were few weekends in the year when P&DAS members were not on duty in the Castle Museum. Several of them supplemented the guided tours with illustrated talks to interested groups all over the county. In the early years the talks were given mainly by Ken Gardiner, but later, Don Lodge and Bill Booth became quite well known as a sort of double act.

The years from 1961 to 1963 were ones of retrenchment. Members carried on working in the castle, digging at St. John's, going on coach excursions, and walking with Fred Morris. An important addition to the committee during these years was Doreen Roberts, an experienced excavator who dug every year in the North. Miss Roberts' experience of archaeology, and committee procedure were to stand the society in good stead. Later, her home in Friarwood house became for many years the repository of the society library, and her outbuildings were used to store various antiquities.

In 1963 plans were announced to extend Pontefract General Infirmary to the south, on to land which had been an orchard since the seventeenth century. The society asked for, and obtained permission, to carry out a dig to investigate the remains of the Dominican Friary of St. Richard, which had once stood here. Work was directed by Ken Wilson. St. Richards was

to be the first proper dig done by the society, a report being published promptly in the *ANNUAL JOURNAL AND REPORT*. One of the personalities who came to dig was John Ingles, a figure who was already a legend in British Archaeology. (He had already spent at least one season digging at St John's Priory in the 1950s) The writer is proud of the fact that Mr. Ingles took him under his wing, and showed him how to properly prepare a feature for photography.

This was a busy time for many members. Ken and Peggy Wilson were also involved in a long-term investigation at Drax where a medieval moated site, Scurff Hall, and a small Romano-British farmstead were being dug. Here, members met diggers from all over Britain, and in the case of the legendary Ilsa, Europe. Looking back, this period was a crucial one for the society. By meeting other diggers, and digging under different directors, on sites of different periods demanding different techniques, members were becoming less parochial in their outlook, and some were becoming good archaeologists. The convivial evenings spent in hostelries near the sites enabled people to learn more, and gave them a longing to sample archaeology outside the confines of the society.

In many ways the mid to late 1960s were good years for the society. After several years of change on the committee, a group became established which contained experts in various aspects of archaeology and local history. Members were invited to participate in quite prestigious digs, several of them in a supervisory capacity. The hard core of the previous class of juniors was now adult, but still largely living locally and with enough free time to commit themselves to working for the society. Work in the castle and in the museum had finished in 1965, leaving the active members time to branch out. Each summer, members spent digging on sites as far removed as the Scilly Isles (where one prominent member, Ken Wilson, one day received by accident a box of groceries

intended for another Mr. Wilson also on the Scillies at the same time: the Prime Minister!) and Hadrian's Wall. The training given by the Wilsons was sufficient to gain invitations from eminent archaeologists to several members. Some of them having to actually turn down requests from people like Richard Atkinson, because of previous commitments.

The big archaeological news story of 1968-9 was the massive programme of excavations planned for Silbury Hill, which was to be financed by the BBC. The writer well remembers the dilemma, and the disappointment involved in having to turn down a chance to dig on this site, as he had already promised himself to another, even better known site. One member did in fact dig at Silbury; Philip Brunt brought back critical reports of the BBC camp catering. These were the days of *CHRONICLE*, a prestigious archaeological TV programme on BBC 2. Several members did, in fact appear on this, but their pride was somewhat dimmed by the fact that few people in Pontefract could actually receive BBC 2!

Nearer home, there were several occasions when the society had to arrange small excavations to solve problems, including an interesting one on a moated site at Glasshoughton, and the sectioning of a Roman road at Ilkley. Members did a lot of field-walking, and on one of these expeditions, Charles B... discovered a Roman Villa at Wentbridge.

Demolitions in the town revealed a beautiful medieval timber-framed house in the market place, thinly disguised as Bratley's Chemists shop. A team from the society recorded the shop, and managed to recover a Jacobean plaster chimney-piece which was carefully restored by another locally prominent member, Harry Battye.

oOo

To be continued. We welcome additions, anecdotes, and illustrations... for this series. Contact the Editor if you wish to contribute.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.

As the person entrusted with the processing of subscription renewals, I am writing a short report on this to show you, the Members, how much we, the Committee, appreciate your co-operation. As I explained in my article in *PontArch 19*, we are gradually moving over to a computerised system of records. This has undoubted advantages to a society such as ours, with its increasing membership and increasing complexity of activities.

I know that some people were somewhat dismayed at the AGM to find that they were presented with a form to fill in, which they then passed to the Treasurer or the Auditor with their subscription. However, this system removes much doubt, and

eliminates a major cause of human error.

After the Treasurer has finished with the forms, he passes them to me, and I update the record. With each form in front of me, I check whether it is an application or a renewal. For an application, I must create a new record for that person, and type in the relevant details. In the case of a renewal, I simply type the person's name and the computer brings up their record on the screen. After checking that it is the right person (we have several members called Smith, for example, and many other people with identical surnames), I then press two keys to insert 03/93 in the **Subscription valid Until:** box. This takes far less time to do than

it does to describe. Finally, I initial the **Record Update** box on the form to eliminate another cause of human error.

The penultimate part of the process is to list those files which still contain 03/92 in the Valid box. Obviously we do not delete these immediately, but for the first time in our history the treasurer has access to a list of non-renewing persons. Finally, I print out a set of record cards for the Treasurer.

Please continue to help by ensuring that the correct box, whether renewal, joining, or change of address, is ticked.

A form is appended for the benefit of members who missed the AGM.

Pontefract and District Archaeological Society.

New Membership; renewal of Membership; change of Address Form.

Please tick the boxes appropriately:

I wish to join the Society:

I wish to renew my subscription:

I wish to notify a change of address:

My Membership Status is:

£2

Student

£2

OAP

£3

Adult

£5

Family

N/A

Life

I agree to the Society keeping my Membership Details in computerised form.

YES


NO

The Society Agrees to keep personal details confidential. A 'No' Answer will entail losing some of the benefits of Membership.

Please note that renewals only require Name, Initials, and Postcode.

Title. (Mr, Mrs, etc) Initials Surname

Address

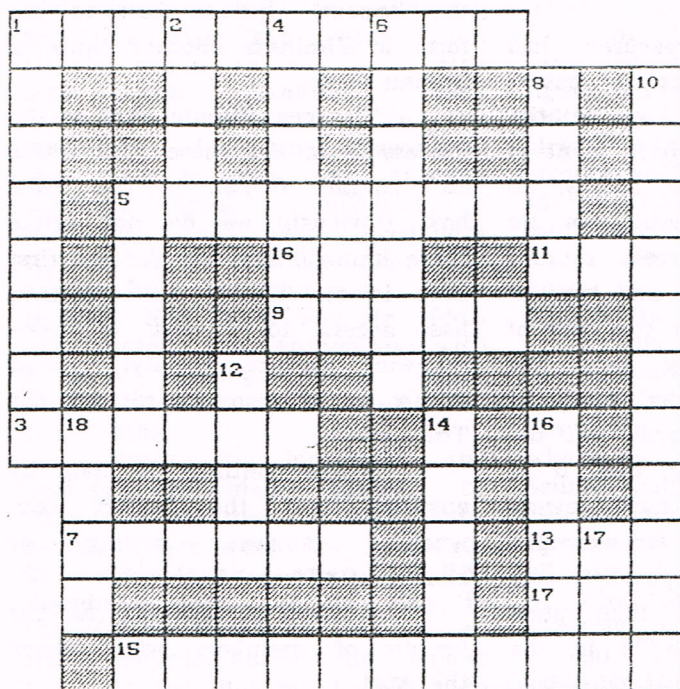
Town Postcode 

Signed Date

Please forward with your remittance (cheques made out to *The Pontefract & Dist. Archaeological Society* please) to the Treasurer, P&DAS, c/o Pontefract Museum, Salter Row, PONTEFRACT, WF8 1BA.

Please do not write in this Box.	
Treasurer:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Record Update:	<input type="checkbox"/>

PONTECROSS TWO. Set by Charon.



ACROSS

1. Before farming. (10)
3. Division of ferrous period. (2) (4)
5. Sword of legend. (9)
7. Pottery of Empire. (6)
9. Change of state. (5)
11. Birthplace of Burns; racecourse. (3)
13. Unit of work. (3)
15. Period of rebirth. (11)
16. 22nd letter of Greek alphabet. (3)
17. The (rubber chicken) management on HP. (3)

DOWN

1. Follows the Dark Ages. (8)
2. Semi-precious stone. (4)
4. Home of Odysseus. (6)
5. "Gift of the Nile." (5)
6. Anatolian Empire; enemy of Egypt. (7)
8. Consort of Olympian ruler. (4)
10. Frankly a great king! (11)
12. Opposed. (4)
14. Land of the dead, classically speaking. (5)
16. Grinder. (5)
17. Gigantic bird of Eastern legend. (3)
18. Part of church. (4)

CONTRIBUTIONS.

PontArch welcomes contributions from members and non-members. We prefer to receive material on disc, but do not let this deter you from submitting ordinary typescript, or even handwritten articles as long as your writing is legible! We can accept the following discs:

1. 3" PCW format 180k.
 2. 3½" PCW format 720k.
 3. 3½" MsDos 720k.
 4. 3" PCW 720k.
- LocoScript, Protext, or Wordstar are the preferred word-processors, but we will happily accept ASCII, which can be produced with all wordprocessors. If you are not sure about compatibility, let us try a disc. No harm will ensue and it could save the Editor hours of re-keying! Naturally, all discs will be returned.