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Radio Carbon



JUNE 1981
PROGRAMS

THE JUNE '78 PROGRAM

MAKE A DATE WITH.....WONDERFUL RADIO CARBON!!!

C14: THE DIGGERS DREAM

Two big stories this month, Safety at Work and the Eternal Triangle, so, if you're sitting comfortably, we'll begin.

Cover Story: HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

John Maloney poured a considerable amount of time and effort into an attempt to sort out the morasse of legislation concerning Site Safety. As a result, he discovered why neither the Lincoln Archaeological Trust or the CBA ever produced the comprehensive proposals on topic which they intended to: the subject is too complex, and is still undergoing radical Governmental re-thinking. On June 5th he chaired a well-supported discussion on the topic, at which collective worries were aired, and hopefully laid to rest.

If archaeological excavation was to be made 'legally' safe, i.e. to conform to the littlest letter of the Law, then the DUA could not afford to excavate any sites at all. (The York Unit had to lay out £350,000 just to shore the Coppergate street frontage). It is therefore imperative that all reasonable commonsense precautions are taken: tie down the top and bottom of the ladder, clean the muddy walk boards, and nobody, but nobody works alone on site, etc., etc.

Although B.H. and JAS are ultimately responsible for Site Safety, and the S.S. should not expect diggers to work in unnecessarily unsafe conditions, it was stressed that each digger was primarily responsible for his/her own safety: as Brian said in the Monthly Meeting the day after, any member of staff who works in dangerous conditions does so, having knowingly accepted the situation. In other words, if you don't like the barrow run 2m. above your head, move it or yourself.

Sites will be checked more rigorously in future, and Mr Maloney persuaded Mr Schofield to invite the Corporation Safety Officer to visit us regularly. Until then, read Clive's new article and the CBA's old one, take a long hard look at your site, and put your safety first.

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE.

Front Cover courtesy of Chris Unwin...!Spot the Safety Hazard'.....

PRETTY VACANCIES

"As a result of the contractual arrangements for the period after 14th July 1978 the following vacancies are announced for Field Section II:"

A SENIOR SITE SUPERVISOR (the rationale behind the creation of a job for which the responsibilities quote are expected to be minimal unquote is, to say the least, questionable. We know 4 S.S's who won't be applying for it). The filling of this post in theory releases a SITE SUPERVISOR post for Watling Court:

Two ASSISTANT SITE SUPERVISORS:

One GENERAL ASSISTANT (Volunteers please note)

Job descriptions and salary levels from Diana or JAS: applications to BH by FRIDAY JUNE 16th.

GOOD LUCK!!

THE TRIANGLE

The keynote in Broadcasting House this month was PANIC: the cause was the publication deadline for the Triangle report. Only excessive dedication and lashings of overtime enabled our hero-persons to complete the report for inclusion in the Little Red Book (Chapman, 1978 forthcoming).

But who was the Triangle, and why all the fuss? We asked CHRIS GREEN, the DUA's chief pot-washer, to explain.

"Triangle was dug before most of us (myself included) started their sentences at the DUA - it was one of the numerous 1974 sites, and so this reminder has been commissioned in view of the hyperactivity recently seen in the Finds Section. It was not the DUA's most spectacular excavation, consisting as it did of a moderate-sized trench 12.5x2.5m, plunging into unadulterated goo just to the north of Lower Thames St. David Jones supervised

The riverside wall uncooperatively failed to appear but some structures had escaped the attentions of Victorian sewer trench diggers: a Saxo-Norman well, a raft of stone and wooden piles of uncertain date, and a series of simple Roman wooden revetments built up over the late 1st and first half of the 2nd centuries. Interpretation of the revetments is far from easy, but even the simplest of us have gathered that one point of revetting was to stop things sliding down into the river just to the south.

Without being unduly biased (!) one can say that the most interesting thing about Triangle was the Roman rubbish ("Gabage" D.J.) that was thrown behind the revetments to build up the ground. Out came wood, bone, plaster, lamps, pots, shoes, leather scraps, seeds, rope, graffiti, op.sig, and tiles etc., etc., all moderately well dated, and in quantities, context for context, which we rarely see even in London. Dr. A. found not the jawbone of an ass, but that of Britain's first mule (once thought to be a zebra in an exalted moment), Mike found a mine of information on leather footwear, and I found enough amphorae to make you ill with the thought of their former contents of olive oil, wine and fermented fish guts. In short, the Finds Section went to town on the Triangle since it represents part of the Roman period that the DUA comes up with time and again on site (GPO, MLK), and we hope that much of it has been work that we won't need to repeat.

The report will be very large, mainly because of the sheer quantity of finds, but we think there may be quite a demand for it. It won't, however, be called 'Triangle', but "Excavations on the site of Billingsgate Buildings... Ask for it by name".

BASEMENT TAPES

There is little scandal to report this month, as most people were working flat-out on the you-know-what-shape, pasting up 23 plates of pot (pots of plates), running away to Ribchester, or -if you're Vanessa- getting engaged to photographers. Diana & Co typed a mere 300 pages which Tony read through over the weekend, and handed over on Monday, only a few months late. What's going to happen when we publish a major site??

Anyway, John the Desk led the DUA's successful assault on Shirley Heights, Natalie is off to sunny Perthshire, and Beth Richardson (of the ILAU) is going to teach Chris Green all she knows.

Meanwhile, Cathy has been suffering from JAS's piles, Des and Jules are chasing a Xmas deadline for a Post-Med Archaeol interim on The Bricks. Paul 'Swoopy' Herbert (who has drawn all over London) has redeposited the buttresses on CHR 76, and Chris Unwin became the Lord of the Rotrings not to mention the Ruler of the Rulers.

Penny's pot processors have had problems: Alison smashed up her car, Sandra was in a bike accident, and Frances got severely damaged playing rounders. We wish you all rapid recoveries. Katie is passing her M.A., and alas & alack, Jim (Mr Crossword 1978) is going to Norwich, having completely boxed the GPO in his spare time. He will be sadly missed.

The volunteers continue to do Great Things. Among the new faces are Hester (who found a Roman bridge at Piercebridge), Clodagh, Joan, Jean David & David, and they have been finding wondrous items from the E.R. material, such as two German pistols & a 10 bob note encased in concrete...

INSITE

Dom Perring, formerly of Flaxengate, lately of the GPO, has begun the DUA's latest acquisition WATLING COURT, which is still suffering greivous bodily harm at the hands of Taffy's machines. The team, which now includes Hilary, Vanda, Jon Jon, Fred, Ben & Dave, have shovelled their way down to a series of Roman floors already, so a six month stay looks likely. However, such was the profusion of drains and live sewers that one wag wondered if the site code was going to be WC.78...

The TRIG LANE team are at present writing the last two chapters of the archive report. After this, work will continue on the first part of the Final Report (LAMAS Special Paper) featuring Chrissie's draughtspersonship, as well as on a general article on the London Waterfront for Current Arch., a paper for the Bremenhaven Conference in Feb 1979, whilst preparing for the DUA's own Waterfront Conference in April 1979. Back-up facilities are also provided for Louise Miller's splendid work on FRESH WHARF's 2,000 year old waterfront, and also for Alan's site in TUDOR STREET.

Here, aided by the able trowels and wellies of Jane and Simon, he has revealed well stratified evidence for the reclamation of the wide delta of the River Fleet, which compares favourably with the sub-palace deposits just to the N. Friday afternoon proved most exciting, for, in amongst the mud and baseballs, a reused timber came to light with a Shhh... secret notched lap housing in it, a joint conventionally dated to c.1250 to 1300A.D. This is the first joint of its type to be found in London, and the first time such an item has been identified in an archaeological context. It is currently on display at Trig Lane for one week only: all seats bookable.

Steve has only just returned to the GPO SITE, having done well in Carthage, to find work continuing satisfactorily upon the Hadrianic housing estate. His staff has been augmented by Helen and Dave, as well as by five persons from an Institution and Sue from UC, who are being cared for by Val, Pauline and Mike. Nigel has gone silly over his brickearth foundations Jenny's driven off to La France. John and Pat are back, the latter after hols in Oxon and MLK77. Simon joined the fashion for shorts started by Jackie in the (?) lean-to, while Angela is in a deep depression now Dom has gone, and consoles herself with her excellent photos of her Tour of Tours. Frederika, who is the brownest, continues to cleanup the house she shares with Suzana, and Kevin would like some feedback on his Matrix Manipulation Package. Clare Jackie R, Ian and Dave discovered that they were Heavenly Twins and Mr Wright fenced off the spoil heap to prevent people throwing rubbish on it.

BARKEROLOGY

On June 7th, the Dept was blessed with the august presence of Phillip Barker, founder member of RESCUE (the pressure group that did so much to persuade the Govt to put more pence into archaeological pockets) and High Priest of the open area excavation cult. After a tour of our Department - which he stressed was the envy of the country- he chaired a seminar in which it was suggested that the DUA should concentrate its resources on excavating a number of large relatively intact sites at research speed (a la GPO) instead of "chasing the bulldozer" (?a la watling Court?)

His packed evening lecture reviewed the development of the open area technique, and ended with a clarion call to push H.M. Government not for £2.5 million for archaeology, but for £20 million.

stop press

timber floor found beneath 1m. thick deposit of midden material in GPO site hut....

YESTERDAY IN PARLIAMENT

"Order, order"

Various matters were brought to the notice of the House on June 6th, including the nail-biting progress of the White Paper on Billingsgate Buildings (currently enjoying its third reading), possible amendments to the Health & Safety in Deep Holes and Wooden Huts Act (1984), and the latest information on the Provisions for the Continued Employment of Persons Other than Those on the Contracted Staff.

On the latter point, the PM (the Rt Hon member for Baginton-cum-Princethorpe) stated that all the JCP staff presently employed "SHOULD be going through". Although one month's notice of the termination of their MSC contracts will be issued on June 14th, verbal confirmation was given that the new contracts would appear on time, ensuring continuity of staffing levels. Only 2 - 3 persons may not be offered new contracts if their work did not improve over the next month.

In a rousing speech, the PM presented the long-awaited Three Year Plan: "We're British" he declared, "so we'll muddle through". He also mentioned that five new contracted posts would be created before July 14th, for which internal applicants could apply in the first instance, contrary to the recent ruling (February sitting) that such positions should be advertised externally as a matter of principle. This departure was in line with current Museum Policy, or so it was argued (see footnote).

Lord Schofield, the Under Secretary of State, threatened the nation with excavations at Bull Wharf, Cutler St and Throgmorton Ave, and announced the transportation of Alison to his section, and of Charlotte to the Ministry of Mr Marsden.

The Member for Computers & Uncontracted Staff brought to the attention of the House that there was no light in the female person's smallest room, and made an impassioned plea for greater awareness of the problem of Health & Safety on Site (cries of "Hear, hear").

The Rt Hon Member for St. Nicholas Shambles was duly elected as the Minister with Special Responsibility for Tools, Equipment & 3 Dozen Plumb Bobs ("a notable piece of volunteering not to be abused"), and visited the dentist to check the GPO's teeth. The Ministry of Defences reported that the contemporary ground surface below the City wall's foundation plinth at Duke's Place had been located, as had a second passageway S. of Maloney's Portals, in a medieval building.

Dr Armitage, the Government's advisor on Faunal Remains, asked for permission to take Merry to the Zoo, and reported on a hob-nailed foot found in Goodman's Fields.

Finally, as a result of a meeting announced at this sitting, the Member for the Essex Marshes deduced that the context sheets were the be all and end all of the DUA's recording system, and the sample sheets (such as the 300 recently filled in by the GPO stake hole excavators) were no longer required.

The House rose at 12.42.

FOOTNOTE: The DUA has only recently accepted the necessity to advertise jobs externally in order to get the best possible applicants, and to ensure that he/she is accepted as the best person available.

However, it was announced that it is now "official Museum Policy" to advertise internally first, thereby giving preference to internal applicants, and if a suitable candidate is not found, to advertise externally. Obviously Brian has his hands tied by this ruling, but this Department should make it clear that in a specialist field such as our own in order to keep our standards in the forefront of archaeology, we need to employ the best.

This ruling will only increase the tendency of the Department to pencil-in in Bold Letters the names of people they intend to give the job to prior to its advertisement, thus making a mockery of the advert, not to mention the Department.

K.F.

PROBLEM PAGE

CROSSWORD No. 5

COMPILED BY JEM

AVE ATQUE VALE (the last of the series)

8 down and 1 across form the first line of an old song which expresses appropriate sentiments.

CLUES ACROSS

1. See note above (4,2,4,3)
10. Hamlet's water-fly (5)
11. The sort of sex without the difference? (3)
13. French version of 19 (5)
14. Naval Officer (7)
17. The man born at Evesham displays decoration (6)
18. Abstain from or avoid action (5)
19. See note above- but Fosti's title was shorter! (7)
21. Alternative for the Light Brigade (2,2,3)
25. Sai sets the sweet corn flowers wrongly (7)
26. Somewhere in Chelsea, RAC helped to expose a disordered drum (3-4)
30. Colloquial version of 19 -for the birds? (3-3)
32. They can be laid, turned or learned (6)
34. A twitch following wrong doing is inconsistent (7)
37. But she's quite common really, especially on the moor! (5)
38. Some of those printer's measured (3)
39. Home on the range (5)
40. Wolsey's extended version of 19 -according to Shakespeare (1,4,8)

CLUES DOWN

2. Scene of naval battle in World War II (7)
3. Shylock's currency (5)
4. The origin of species -well, half of it anyway (4)
5. One of the even chances at roulette (4)
6. Cat wounds? (5)
7. An extra 1p is needed and its finished off! (7)
8. See note above (2,4,3,4)
9. German version of 19 -not quite! (3,10)
12. Ancient river (4)
15. Disavow (4)
16. Chocolate with wings (4)
20. Manufacturer of wax (3)
22. Early method of propulsion (3)
24. The true cockney didn't trust him to know the way if there had been dilly-dallying! (7)
25. Male reaction to strip-teasers 23 (4)
27. The noes are, always (4)
28. Army officer (7)
29. If this bird could sing would it give a 19 performance (4)
31. Affirmatively the Navy longs for something (5)
33. You need 8 22's to form one of these at Cambridge- or elsewhere (1,
35. Often a hidden danger to mariners (4)
36. The arts can also portray an old ruler (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 4

ACROSS

1. CHRYSANTHEMUM
10. AGAINST
11. LAUNDRY
12. LATIMER
14. PETUNIA
16. CARNATION
18. QUO
19. URE
21. BRILLIANT
25. BALLAST
27. CHINESE
28. LOTTERY
30. OUTDOOR
32. RHODODENDRONS

DOWN

2. HEARTE
3. YEN
4. ASTER
5. TULIP
6. EMU
7. UNDONE
8. DAHLIA
9. BYWAYS
13. EARWIGS
15. EPITAPH
16. COB
17. NUT
20. COBALT
22. CHERRY
23. CLUTCH
24. RENOWN
26. TOYED
27. CROWN
29. END
31. TOR

→ Skyline (with sea at Hastings) from my ^{residing} Haslemys has room for you

POST OFFICE 31 MAY 1978

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

Provisional date: 1956 Type: Female Person Site: ORE 78 Context: CU

Description of Context:

Light tan with rosey hue; slightly burnt surface layer. Occasionally plastered. Slight concentrations on FIG sheets.

Position of Context:

In back garden, west of cold Guinness.

Level:

Horizontal.

Physically under: The influence.

Physically over: The grass.

Plans: Supper in 10 minutes. Other drawings: see over.

Interpretation: z z z z z z z z z z

Signature: Chris

Date: Tuesday evening



The enclosed redesigned context sheet arrived in the Drawing Office earlier this month.....

N.E. BODY.
The Drawing Office
DEPT. URBAN ARCH.
71, BASINGHALL STR.
LONDON EC4.

KNOSSOS by Sarah Paton

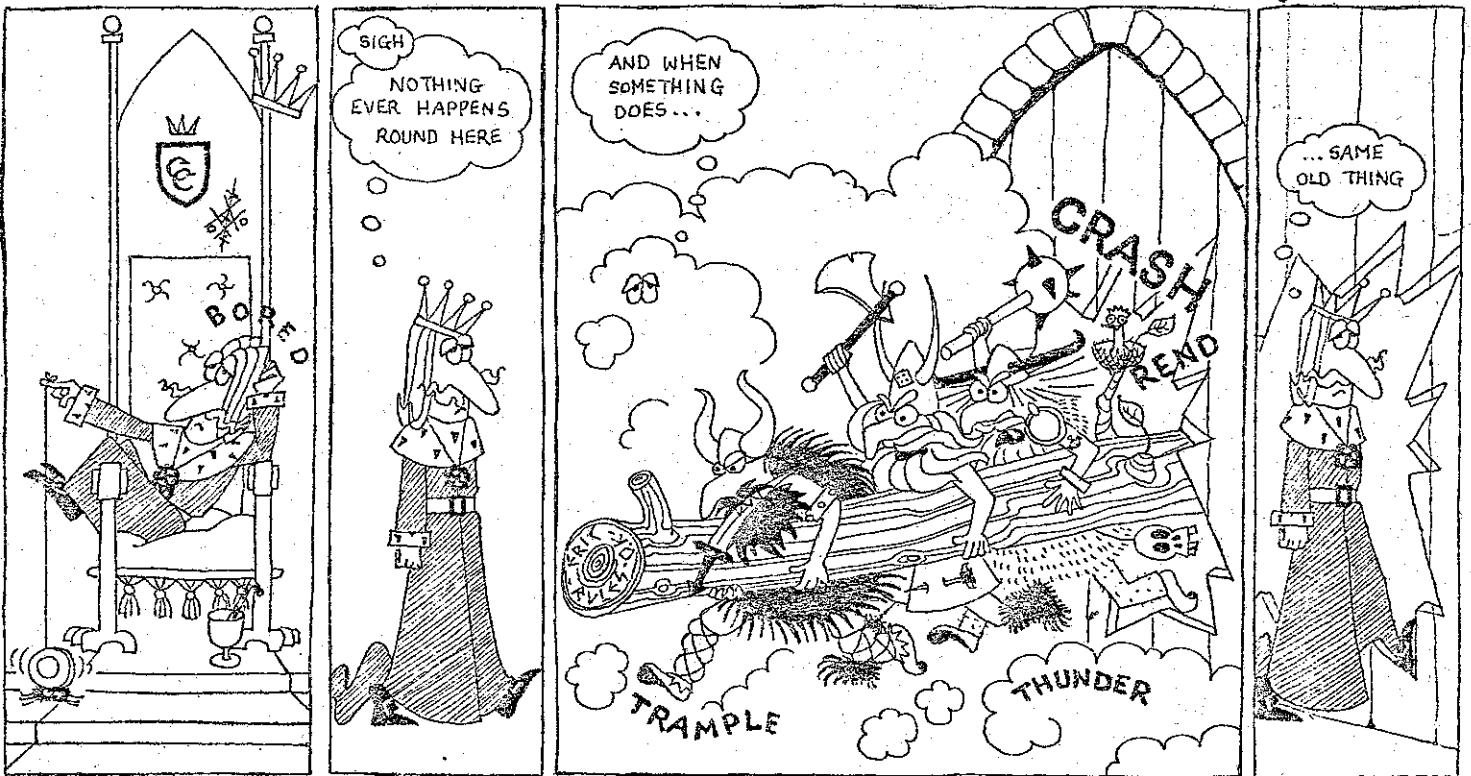
Knossos always produces archaeological surprises. This year, arriving for a months quiet pottery study, we found that the new university of Crete was building its medical school in the garden of the old monastery of the Whirling Dervishes, a hill hitherto reckoned to be the only spot in the area barren of antiquities. The contractors had struck an immensely rich cemetery dating from the 9th century BC to the Roman period, topped with a 5th century AD trefoil-apsed church whose foundations largely consisted of 'spolia' from a handsome Roman building that must have stood nearby. Panic. A team of diggers had been rushed over from Athens and was racing against the bulldozers to clear tombs, some of which contained over 100 vases each.

Knossos has an immense Bronze Age Palace, built on top of 6m. depth of Neolithic occupation; it had a large and bellicose Hellenistic city, and a Roman colony. Now it has turned up evidence of a Proto-Geometric settlement with connections across the Mediterranean from Etruria to the Levant. The original plan for this summer was an excavation in July to prepare for the building of an extension to the Stratigraphical Museum - but there isn't room for the finds from the current dig until the extension is built. Where do you put an unexpected delivery of over 1,000 large and delicately-painted P-G vases, in a building which already houses seventy years worth of finds from one of the richest sites in the world?

By contrast, our sherd -mountain from Myrtos in south Crete looked quite puny - we've pieced together a mere 900 vases from 3 years excavation. But it continues to turn up the unexpected: this year, an Egyptian hieroglyphic sealing on a local amphora, 2 dead rats, a very lively snake and a dear little baby scorpion. There's even a chance of it's all meaning something, if the swallows would only stop stealing the pottery basket labels to embellish their nests.

Carbon Castle

by Tröll



CALENDAR DATES

During the high summer season, our seminar sessions will appear less frequently than in previous months, to allow for holidays and for persons to continue site work long into the balmy twilight. However, there are two important lectures coming up:

JUNE 21st...Ed Harris, the Matrix Man and on

JULY 4th...Peter Fowler, well-known for his work down CRAAGS way, and on steam radio.

And don't forget the Wednesday and Friday lunchtime sessions in the air-conditioned Museum.

SPORTICUS

A World of Sport Special Report, live from Argentina

by IAN BLAIR

The shock disqualification of Dave from the darts doubles highlighted the chaotic second round matches which were held recently. It was the unfortunate Dave "Willie" Stephens who failed a random drugs test after the expected positive result recorded after tests on other squad members proved negative.

Later, in an exclusive interview with Radio Carbon, Dave revealed his shame in not taking the drug 'Reactavin' before the crucial games, and, with tears flowing, he described how serious pre-match clutch trouble had ruined his preparations, leaving him listless and forgetful.

Meanwhile on the bench, John "Super-sub" Bailey relaxed after a hard evenings work in which he had successfully deputised for everyone except the barman, and in doing so, had given two partnerships an easy trip into the semi-finals.

The revised draw for the remaining matches will be announced later this week, and the games will take place on Friday.

A cracking start was recorded in the newly formed Rounders League, which meets every Thursday in the GPO's car park.

Forthcoming Attractions...DUA Cricket...batting with a pick-axe handle and bowling to hit a bollard, date to be arranged.

Marvel at the position of Dave's short legs, and the distance between Nigel's two long legs, which are so much admired by Angela.....

See Patrick's bouncers, Kewin's square legs, admire Dereks slip and see how Mike appeals to the umpires....

Its all happening, so get your pads and book yourself into a box, you know it makes sense.

BRITANNIA WIDE

The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit have completed their multi period Mount Farm project, and are about to expand into Lechlade Glos, once they have completed the Hardwick site upon which Geoff Debbie and Hilary will be administering. G & D have kindly offered to put up any DUA persons called for an Oxford Course Interview at their new home, 25 Aston Street, Oxford.

Andy B continues his important work at the DMV of Raunds, where he will be joined by Lez and Graham Cadman.

The new improved Scottish Central Unit has just started work, and is apparently employing ex DUA star Thos Chilton

Prof. Barry Cunliffe, the well-known publishing machine is about to embark upon a massive three year project in Bath

While London starts work on Watling Court, Canterbury is digging up 16 Watling Street, the first phase of a 2 year project in advance of the development of the Marlowe Theatre car park. Already traces of a ?med. church, a deep ?late saxon @rubenhaus and Roman buildings of timber and stone have appeared. Why not visit this beautiful town and see the diggers hostel, which is shared with 3 cats, 2 guinea pigs and a tortoise.

STANDARD DEVIATIONS

C14 CALLING ALL SAFETY PIN-UPS AND DREADLOCKERS....
Dont miss out on Sarah Party's Petrie, the BIG ONE for all lovers of Punky Reggae. 6 Newington Green Rd, London N.1 is where its at, on Sat., June 17th See you there!!!

C14 Another FIRST for Wonderful Radio Carbon...in RC3 we broadcast the news that Tim Tatton Brown had discovered a complete section of Canterbury's Roman town wall standing to parapet level encased within the fabric of St. Mary Northgate. The next issue of Current Archaeol, No.62 (which will have a bottle green cover) will follow our lead on this important discovery. Issue 63 has even more good things in store, especially for addicts of Phillip Rahz's "How Likely is Likely?". We can now reveal that York's learned Prof. has produced some excavators guide lines, which include such gems as "if in doubt, dig it out...if still in doubt, put it back..."

C14 Geoff Parnell, who is currently bricked up in the Salt Tower, tells us that a rare coin was found in the medieval moat at the Tower: it proved to be an early C19th halfpenny minted in Pakistan. His own excavations below the Martin Tower discovered five C16th pikes, complete with handles, while workmen mending the White Tower located a complete Saxo-Norman cat inside the original wall core. Meanwhile, back in the moat, preparations are in hand to celebrate the Towers 900th birthday. A stage has been built on which, as a fitting tribute to our Nation's No. One Ancient Monument, Tommy Steele will perform Gilbert and Sullivan's "Yeomen of the Guard"...

C14 Trevor the Plod begs users of the slide library to either remove, or at least wipe their feet before entering, as the microscope which lives there does not like dust.

C14 Peter Ellis, founder member of the DUA and currently CRAAGS Field Officer, is expecting another little Daniel to keep his six cats happy. George and Liz Willcox, our former environmentalist and conservative wife, will be back in Merrie England on 20th July, enroute to America, from Ankara.

C14 Comment of the week on the new Museum of London....
"It's so dark one almost expects ladies with purple lipstick to step out and say 'can I show you something interesting?'".

The JUNE PROGRAM was produced and directed by Stanley Baldwin, assisted by JA., DG & GM, with additional material supplied by JBE, KF & FH. Special thanks to JS for the crossword, to SP, IB & CG for their articles and to CU, our artistic director, for the cover etc.

Material for the JULY PROGRAM should be sent to
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RADIO CARBON IS A GAS

C14

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