

bottles and building debris scattered over paths and gardens. During the 18th century some attempt was made to bury rubbish in the courtyard. A pit, for example, was found against the stable block wall, but this was soon given up. The documentary and archaeological record clearly shows that by the 18th century Old Town was in a sorry state. Croydon's proximity to London and the coming of the railway, however, encouraged Croydon's 19th century population explosion and commercial prosperity.

The excavations in Croydon have, therefore, largely confirmed the sketchy historical record. It

is hoped, however, that much detailed information will become available when the large amount of late Saxon to 19th century pottery, small finds and animal bones are analysed together with the structural details obtained. The Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society hopes to continue its examination on building sites as they become available and so a more detailed picture of the development of Croydon will be revealed.

The full report on the excavations in Old Town Croydon will be published in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. LXVIII, 1972.

London's Archaeological Societies — 7

BOROUGH OF TWICKENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

THE BOROUGH of Twickenham was founded in 1927 after considerable opposition from its associated villages, Teddington, Hampton, Hampton Wick and Whitton. Each still, in spite of "progress," forgetfulness and mid-century migrations maintains its peculiarities and stubborn exaggeration of separate identity. Medieval law, however, had bound the villages to "Istleworth" and the Lords of Syon gave protection in return for dues.

Recent legislation has joined this amalgam to Richmond as the "Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames." This is a curious shaped affair with the Thames dividing the two. Local interests still make themselves felt and our Society persists with its original title.

The locality has a particularly rich past. Six stately homes or palaces are within easy reach of each other; Hampton Court, Ham, Osterley, Syon, Strawberry Hill and Marble Hill. A wealth of notable residents have found the riverside a pleasant place to live in; Pope, Walpole, Kneller, Turner, Dickens, Garrick and Blackmore.

The Local History Society was formed in 1962 by a group of "patriots." Since then it has met each month, from October to May, for lectures and discussions and has fostered interest in the by-gones of the area and wider related subjects. With a membership of over 300, attendance never falls below 100 enthusiasts; which fact somewhat astonishes visiting lecturers.

The publication of research on local topics is a particular feature of the Society's work and about 20 booklets have already appeared. Our Borough Council is appreciative and generous in this matter. The Publication Committee aims to offer about three new titles per year, modestly priced (2/6 to 5s) and modestly produced; of some issues there are no remainders. We now have to reprint some numbers. The local diarist, taxation, fire brigade, turnpikes, suffragettes, excavation and so on, provide topics for a variety of tastes. Novices in research are encouraged to start work on projects and students from training colleges seek advice from the Society.

The river which flows through our district has often yielded an historic treasure or two, as labels at the British and London Museums will testify; Twickenham Parish Church has a Norman Tower; the name Twickenham has

Saxon derivations and "Tuicanhamme" is mentioned in a Royal Saxon Charter dated A.D. 790. But it was not until 1966 that its prehistoric past was investigated. A prime mover in the founding of the Society, an enthusiastic "patriot," who thought that his home town had everything but a "dig," urged that a bombed site near the Parish Church should be excavated.

To the enthusiasm of the Society was added considerable practical help and material aid by the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. This blind project proved most rewarding; ample material of the occupation of historic Twickenham from Norman times onward turned up at this extremely small site and the unexpected Prehistoric material will soon be on view at Kingston Museum, where it is on loan. All who run may read an account of the excavation in the Society's Paper Number 12, (Price 3s), with a special note on the pottery by Dr. Isobel Smith. In future, on early Neolithic maps, a new dot should mark Twickenham, next to Kingston, next to Staines.

The success of the Twickenham Excavation encouraged another in Hampton the following summer. This was an extensive rescue dig on a demolition site, prior to the erection of a new Parish Hall; the object was to search for the foundations of a medieval tythe barn and an ancient Grammar School. A very large number of people were engaged on this, but never had platter been licked cleaner. Two small fragments of Iron Age pottery; one boar's tooth; one very delightful flint tool; one bronze Roman brooch pin were practically all the reward we had, apart from some interesting Victoriana, the inevitable clay pipes the skeleton of a dog and of course, the happy companionship one gathers on the best of "digs," in one's worst of clothes.

So, though primarily, a "Local History Society," we have delved into Prehistory to some good purpose. Our publication "business" absorbs much of our interests. Our lecture list is wide and varied—the local soap manufacturer precedes Paleolithic Man. We like it all.

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